

Park Board Meeting, Thursday, November 19, 2020

The Chillicothe Parks and Recreation Board met via zoom and the meeting was called to order by President Eric Turner on Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 5:15 p.m. with the following in attendance: Director Josh Norris, Lou Cowherd, Jim Hinrichs, Mitchell Holder, Eric Turner and Maurice Zion.

Lou Cowherd moved that the minutes from the October 19, 2020 meeting be approved with Mitch Holder seconding the motion. Motion carried.

Appearance: Friends of Chillicothe Parks, Inc (FOCP)

Lou Cowherd, President of FOCP, made a presentation on the proposed all-inclusive Simpson Park playground project. Park Board members in advance of this meeting had all been emailed files continuing the playground design and playground surface by Playground Structures selected by members (Allison Pickering, Meghanne Albrecht, Sara Bender and Mary Triplett) of the FOCP. This group has raised \$438,000 (\$310K - local foundations; \$100K - City of Chillicothe & New Horizons - \$28K) for the project which includes equipment, PIP surface, concrete subsurface including drainage solutions and engineering services. Because the playground equipment can be purchased through a cooperative buying group with no membership costs, the city doesn't have to go out for bid for the equipment and PIP surface. Lou indicated that she was going to the City Council on November 30, to seek approval for the purchase of the playground equipment and for the city to issue bids for the drainage, site preparation and concrete work. Mitch Holder moved that the Park Board approve the work that FOCP has done and to move forward on the project. Maurice Zion seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business

New Business/Director's Report

The Festival of Lights ceremony will be this Saturday night at 5:30 p.m. (Park will close at 4:50 p.m.). Because of COVID-19, there will be a very short ceremony with social distancing and recommended wearing of masks. Ed Douglas will be speaking on behalf of the county.

Winterization of bathrooms in all bathrooms has taken place. Will move one more time in Danner. Two seasonal employees are still working but next week will be last day. Projects still on calendar include mulching, Kiwanis Shelter House roof, Simpson Park bridge, Jaycee Shelter house roof replacement. Josh indicated that the YMCA will be discussing taking over the SPA program.

Chilli Bay - do not have final numbers but Josh indicated that attendance was down by 8,000. There are some maintenance issues that will need to be taken care of over the winter.

Good news is that city revenues, despite COVID-19, have been up.

Josh will be working on budgeting after Thanksgiving.

Meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be held at 5:15 p.m. on Monday, March 15, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Cowherd
Secretary