



MASSILLON RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES April 19, 2023

The Massillon Recreation Board met in regular session on April 19, 2023 at 4:55 p.m.

Board Members:

Present: Alex Wood, Mark Hickey, Ted Schartiger, Moe Rickett

Absent: Dave Harding

Others Present: Julie Hartwig-Smith, City Council-Committee Chair

Staff Members:

Present: Steve Pedro, Carol Leonard, Tiana Spencer, Caroline Ferrel, Carrie Lowry, Greg Myers, Joe Pape

Acceptance of April 19, 2023 Meeting Agenda:

23-045 *Mr. Hickey moved; seconded by Mr. Schartiger to approve the April 19, 2023 meeting agenda. Motion carried 4-0 by roll call vote.*

March 15, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes:

23-046 *Mr. Hickey moved; seconded by Mr. Schartiger to approve the March 15, 2023 Regular meeting minutes. Motion carried 4-0 by roll call vote.*

Public Comments:

None

Expense Reports:

23-047 *Mr. Schartiger moved; seconded by Mr. Wood to approve the March 2023 Parks and Recreation Expense report totaling \$214,674.72. Motion carried 4-0 by roll call vote.*

23-048 *Mr. Hickey moved; seconded by Mr. Schartiger to approve the March 2023 Legends Golf Course Expense report totaling \$132,602.62. Motion carried 4-0 by roll call vote.*

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Duncan Plaza Agreement (Attachment)

23-049 *Mr. Hickey moved; seconded by Mr. Schartiger. Motion failed 2-2 by roll call vote. Mr. Schartiger and Mr. Wood voted in favor and Mr. Hickey and Mr. Rickett voted against.*

Moe Rickett: Discussion, please

Steve Pedro: Alright, this has been what we've been working on. Last meeting, we requested that, if you look at Article II Maintenance, we requested the as needed be taken out. The administration asked that it not be taken out. The reason being is they stated we are helping with tables and chairs. If something else comes up and they ask us and we don't have time, we may say no but that was the reasoning behind that, to not take that out. I called everybody and I think we are in a place where we can move forward and again, it is up to the board. There are very minimal times that we are over there. I can't express that enough and I assure you of that. If they should call, I don't know if we would say no, but if we were too busy we couldn't do something then, that would be out of the ordinary to be honest with you if it's something we don't know about ahead of time.

Mark Hickey: They weren't happy with putting in there, tables and chairs?

Steve Pedro: She just asked. When I talked to Barb, she asked that we don't put that in because something else could come up and if that was in there, that would eliminate any help that we could give them if

Mark Hickey: Such as?

Steve Pedro: I don't know. She just said if something came up, Mr. Hickey. And, honestly, I don't know what would happen over there, maybe a canopy or something.

Mark Hickey: What does as needed mean? Does it mean unlimited? I mean, this is the question I have. We have 35 plus some parks. I don't want all our time with the crew spent on Duncan Plaza.

Steve Pedro: We are not going to do that

Mark Hickey: But if you say, as needed, they are going to tell you as needed

Steve Pedro: I agree with what you are saying, the way it's read. The City's performance under this agreement as needed. With the few amount of events they do have down there, they are scheduled. I don't have the schedule yet, it's not out yet. There are concerts but we don't do anything with the concerts. They bring their own chairs. The 3rd of July, if they have that, we usually help with that. We participate in that as well. We are usually involved in that as well as the rest of the city.

Mark Hickey: When I said to give this back to them, I really meant to give it back to them.

Steve Pedro: Well, we can't get rid of a park

Mark Hickey: I understand that. It is a park, but I agreed to the snow removal, I said we would do that. I agreed to the trash pick-up. I agreed to everything but all we put in there was tables and chairs to be set up and they weren't happy with that?

Steve Pedro: As I stated, they said there may be other times when they need us for something. I can tell you and I think and Joe you

Mark Hickey: Even the law director was here and he said to put in there per board approval. They weren't happy with that?

Steve Pedro: No, no, the Rec Board stated we didn't want to do that because they would have to come to us every time if they wanted to have something down there. And, I think we agreed on that to not put that in then. So, it wouldn't be an issue if they have a concert or if they had a pop-up

Mark Hickey: That's what was voted on, 5-0. Everybody was happy with it at that time

Steve Pedro: But, it didn't go the other way, on the other end. I mean, it's up to the board. If we want to vote on this again, we can vote on it now, we can table it. I understand everything you are saying but I can assure you that when our guys are busy, they're busy. They are not going to be doing anything they can't do.

Mark Hickey: You know where I stand. Moe, it's up to you if you want to vote on it or table it. You are running the meeting.

Moe Rickett: Steve, I'll ask you, what do you want to do? You want to vote on it?

Steve Pedro: I want to move forward. The worst thing that can happen is that they give it back to us. It's ours already.

Moe Rickett: We need a motion

Mark Hickey: I make a motion that we vote on it on effective April 19, 2023

Ted Schartiger: Second

Moe Rickett: Any further questions or comments? Roll call please.

Carol Leonard: Rickett

Moe Rickett: No

Carol Leonard: Wood

Alex Wood : Yes

Carol Leonard: Schartiger

Ted Schartiger: Yes

Carol Leonard: Hickey

Mark Hickey: No...okay

Steve Pedro: I don't know what we do with that Mr. Hickey, with the 2-2

Mr. Hickey: Well it can't be forwarded

Steve Pedro: I understand that, okay, we'll talk later

Moe Rickett: Okay, moving on to new business

NEW BUSINESS:

1. New Hires (Attachment)

23-050 *Mr. Hickey moved; seconded by Mr. Wood to approve the new hires. Motion carried 4-0 by roll call vote.*

Moe Rickett: Any questions?

Mark Hickey: Yes, I do have one question. What is a Fitness Attendant?

Steve Pedro: Someone that is in the fitness room taking attendance, they check the equipment, they clean the equipment. They go through the room periodically throughout their shift.

Mark Hickey: And, that's not a very physical job, is it?

Steve Pedro: No

Mark Hickey: Okay. If you look at the pay scale here. The ground crew, and that is with you Joe, correct?

Steve Pedro: This is the golf course

Joe Pape: It's the golf course

Mark Hickey: Okay, well, I would say that is much more physical. They are only making \$10.10 an hour. The fitness attendant is making \$10.50 an hour sitting in the air conditioning.

Steve Pedro: Some of them will get raises throughout the year. The fitness attendant probably isn't going to get one

Mark Hickey: What are you telling me?

Steve Pedro: We start them out at minimum wage at the golf course

Mark Hickey: Okay

Steve Pedro: That's just what we've done. That's how our budget is. There are sometimes where and I think Carrie and Greg, you can agree to this. Throughout the summer, if they do really well, they give them a raise

Carrie Lowry: If they stay with us, we give them a raise

Mark Hickey: Like, after a month or?

Carrie Lowry: Every year

Mark Hickey: So, if they come back. So, can you give me an idea, if they come back, do you bump it up \$1.00?

Carrie Lowry: No, usually it is \$.50 to \$.75

Mark Hickey: Okay. I just think that is much more physical being outside than being inside. I think they should get paid a little more.

Steve Pedro: And I don't disagree with that part but the fitness attendant has a lot of responsibilities as well. Not de-justifying the other one.

Mark Hickey: I just asked

Steve Pedro: I understand

Mark Hickey: I have no more questions

2. Field Requests (Attachments)

23-051 *Mr. Hickey moved; seconded by Mr. Wood to allow the attached to reserve fields as per dates on letters sent in. Motion carried 4-0 by roll call vote.*

Moe Rickett: This is the only one?

Steve Pedro: All of the others are full. This is the last request. They are all filled up.

3. Fence Installations at Lincoln Park, Franklin Park and Lawndale Park, not to exceed \$21,000.00 (Attachment)

23-052 *Mr. Hickey moved; seconded by Mr. Schartiger to allow fence installations at Lincoln Park, Franklin Park, and Lawndale Park, not to exceed \$21,000.00. Motion carried 4-0 by roll call vote.*

4. Resurface all Basketball Courts, not to exceed \$19,000.00 (Attachment)

23-053 *Mr. Hickey moved; seconded by Mr. Schartiger to allow resurfacing all basketball courts, not to exceed \$19,000.00. Motion carried 4-0 by roll call vote.*

5. Replace Toro irrigation controllers at the Legends, not to exceed \$31,592.00 (Attachment)

23-054 *Mr. Hickey moved; seconded by Mr. Wood to approve to replace the Toro irrigation controllers at the Legends, not to exceed \$31,592.00. Motion carried 4-0 by roll call vote.*

Mark Hickey: Do we have to use Toro because it's a Toro system?

Greg Myers: Yes. It's part of a larger system. We have the 40 satellite controllers on the course. We are trying to upgrade the existing controllers. They've been at the course since they've built it in the mid 90's. They are becoming obsolete. Hard to get parts for them.

Mark Hickey: I'm surprised they lasted this long

Greg Myers: We do a lot of work on them to keep them running. We were hoping to get 4 this year, what we can budget for and every year keep chipping away at it

Mark Hickey: Good, great

Mark Hickey: Does anybody besides Toro do this?

Greg Myers: Rain Bird would be their competitor. We are not replacing the whole system, we are upgrading

Mark Hickey: We don't need two quotes on this

Greg Myers: That's what we are thinking

Steve Pedro: One other thing about that. They are under state contract. This is as cheap as we are going to get it.

Mark Hickey: I got it. Good point. Thank you.

6. Personal Golf Cart usage at the Legends Golf Course (Attachment)

23-055 Mr. Hickey moved; seconded by Mr. Schartiger to approve personal golf cart usage at the Legends Golf Course. Motion carried 4-0 by roll call vote.

Steve Pedro: After speaking with everybody and I was in the same boat with Mr. Hickey. I misunderstood how we are doing this. It's been so long since they set the rules. So now, if we want to move forward with this, the stipulations are right here. They have to sign a release of all claims form, they have to have proof of insurance, they have to have GPS installed at the owner's expense, and if there is an update at some point, they have to do that as well. The other rules, the only time they are allowed on the course is when the course is open. They are there to golf when the course is open. They are not allowed to drive around at night. If you have any questions, if this isn't clear

Mark Hickey: I just misunderstood. I did not know this.

Steve Pedro: When they come to the course, they pay for a cart anyway but they use theirs instead of ours

Mark Hickey: That's fine

Steve Pedro: Okay?

Mark Hickey: We'll talk about the lifetime membership later

Steve Pedro: You got it

Mark Hickey: I'm cool with this

Steve Pedro: Thank you

Moe Rickett: How do you guys feel about this? Just curios.

1st Homeowner at the Legends: Why we came down the last time is because we didn't think you understood and know how it works. I'm actually double paying for a cart because I pay for yours and I pay to maintain mine

Mark Hickey: I think everyone on this board and previous board thought the same thing I thought. We just take the \$500 and you use your own cart

1st Homeowner at the Legends: No, I buy a membership just like anybody else

Mark Hickey: I apologize for that

2nd Homeowner at the Legends: Do we work through Carrie?

Carrie Lowry: Yes, you work through me. Everybody HAS to have a GPS in order to use a golf cart.

1st Homeowner at the Legends: When I go home, it won't shut my car off, will it?

Carrie Lowry: No, but I'm going to be locking them down at night

2nd Homeowner at the Legends: Are we going to have to go through this in another 2 years?

Steve Pedro: You never know

2nd Homeowner at the Legends: I hope not. I plan on living out there a long time

Mark Hickey: I think this was good. I don't think anyone on this board or who has been on this board previously, or now (and I've been on this board a long time), understood how this actually worked

BOARD REPORTS:

Board Reports were submitted by:

1. **Parks: Joe Pape**
2. **The Legends – Carrie Lowry**
3. **Senior Center – Caroline Ferrell**
4. **Recreation – Tiana Spencer**
5. **Director's Report: Steve Pedro**

Moe Rickett: Does anyone have any further questions or comments?

Julie Hartwig-Smith: Is it okay if I ask something?

Moe Rickett: Sure

Julie Hartwig-Smith: On the master plan, how long are we doing the survey?

Steve Pedro: The survey is over now. It's been going on for two months. OHM has done a good job up to about a month and a half ago, not that they aren't doing a good job, they are just moving a little slower than I would like them to be. So, we need to get moving and get the community together.

Julie Hartwig-Smith: How were the results?

Steve Pedro: There were less than 100 people who did the survey. We put it out on Facebook, all of our websites

Julie Hartwig-Smith: I know. I was going to share it. I was going to talk to you about it. I didn't know it ended already. Maybe we could open it briefly for just a couple days. If we could get Kathy to put it out on Nixle where people can see if a road is closed

Steve Pedro: That is probably one place it didn't go and I honestly

Julie Hartwig-Smith: That's the one place that reaches everybody

Steve Pedro: And somebody brought that up to me and maybe I'm guilty. I don't see the value in Nixle to be honest with you but, it's there.

Julie Hartwig-Smith: I mean, I get it every day

Steve Pedro: I'm not opposed to that. I left a message for them today

Julie Hartwig-Smith: I just feel that if you don't get a good survey, it doesn't do crap for you

Steve Pedro: I agree

Julie Hartwig-Smith: Then I have one other thing. I'm sorry I was late. I had to work over. I had someone call me. She left me her name but she doesn't want me to say who she is. She lives over there by the Linda Lane allotment. She said she has been there over 25 years and when they built the homes, there is a four-foot area that belongs to the park that is supposed to have access to the park

Steve Pedro: It belongs to the developer

Julie Hartwig-Smith: Oh, okay

Steve Pedro: But it is said to be access to the park

Julie Hartwig-Smith: She said she has paperwork that says it is for the people in the neighborhood to have access to the park

Steve Pedro: Yes, this came up a few years ago, I think you were here, right when I first started. There is a house right behind Kelly, there's an easement that leads to the park. The developer owns that property but agreed to let people walk through there. It's never been developed. It's never been a developed walk way. I can tell you it is very hard for them to get to the park from there on that side. There's a pond, there's trees, a fence. If the developer wants to

Julie Hartwig-Smith: I have an idea. She's just upset because there are all these kids in the neighborhood and they have no way to get into the park and people don't want them cutting through their yards so she wanted to use this area. Let me get the maps. If you go down Oberlin Road, we own the property that connects to the park, the city does, off that dead end and I'm wondering if we can talk to Kathy. We can put a path in through there. Carlene goes all the way through that allotment there to Kelly, it would all be connected. Kids would be able to ride from that neighborhood there plus the other neighborhood. They would all be able to ride to Community Park.

Steve Pedro: I believe that is actually park land

Julie Hartwig-Smith: It says City of Massillon

Steve Pedro: Everything says City of Massillon but I think that was included in the Community Park purchase

Julie Hartwig-Smith: Before it all gets built up, I think it would be a great idea because all those houses on the southwest side, they can cut through the neighborhoods because right now the only way to get to the park is 241. And they are not letting them use that easement. The property owners act like it's their property.

Steve Pedro: I talked to them. When this came about before, they agreed. They don't mind people walking through there but I can tell you it's not easy once they get through their mowed yard, to get over to the park. That is the developers land.

Julie Hartwig-Smith: Right, but if we can make it an established path, we can talk to Kathy about it, it would really create a lot of access to a lot of kids and people walking.

Steve Pedro: I think I just need to find out if it is park property.

Mark Hickey: It's listed as City of Massillon

Steve Pedro: They all say City of Massillon. Community Park out by the ballfield says City of Massillon. It's all owned by the City of Massillon. I just don't know if that was purchased when they purchased the land for Community Park.

Mark Hickey: Is that 23rd street, the hill? Where the cul-de-sac is. Is that 23rd?

Julie Hartwig-Smith: Yes

Mark Hickey: It goes right down to the ballfield?

Steve Pedro: Yes, Carlene comes into the development and 23rd goes the other way

Mark Hickey: That's park land right behind the fence there

Steve Pedro: That's what we don't know. There's homeowner and then there's park land. We don't go all the way to those homes.

Mark Hickey: Right

Steve Pedro: In fact, half of the ponds are actually on home owner's property

Julie Hartwig-Smith: But if you go to Oberlin

Steve Pedro: I know where you are talking about, where the Oberlin dead ends, I think what you are saying is that maybe we can run a trail

Julie Hartwig-Smith: Right

Steve Pedro: It's something we can look at. The people that want to walk through there shouldn't have any resistance. They know, when they bought that property, I talked to a couple of them. They know that that is there.

Julie Hartwig-Smith: Yeah. The lady said she got into it with a couple of the home owners that live on it that they don't want people cutting through their property

Steve Pedro: Then they shouldn't have lived there

Julie Hartwig-Smith: When you zoom in on it too, they've since built trees and put bushes on everybody's land and it has kind of just took over the four-foot area where it's not really a walkway or a place to ride your bike through. So, I was really trying to think of a way the kids can get there. If we could do something like that, it would really open it up to the whole southwest side to ride to Community Park.

Mark Hickey: Instead of going on 241?

Julie Hartwig-Smith: Right

Steve Pedro: I'll find out what the property is. It's something to look at.

Moe Rickett: Let's take a look at it next week

Steve Pedro: Call me when you are ready

Moe Rickett: Anything else, anybody?

Julie Hartwig-Smith: Thank you

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:33 pm. The next scheduled regular meeting will be on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 5:00 pm at the Massillon Recreation Center.

Transcribed By: *Carol Leonard, Office Manager*