



MASSILLON RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES October 18, 2023

The Massillon Recreation Board met in regular session on October 18, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

Board Members:

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

Others Present: Julie Harwig-Smith, Dave Maley, Edwin Mack, Ed Lewis, Aaron Violand

Staff Members:

Present: Steve Pedro, Carol Leonard, Caroline Ferrel, Joe Pape

Mr. Rickett: I want to introduce our newest board member, Nasheka Lemon. I want to welcome her and everyone here to our board meeting. With that, we will get started.

Mr. Hickey: Mr. President, if I may add something to item number three. I would like to add this to item number three. The Recreation Board agrees to, not to exceed \$35,000 per year for the splash pad at Wampler Park for maintenance, operations, and repairs, not including any capital improvements. I will repeat that, The Recreation Board agrees to, not to exceed \$35,000 per year for the splash pad at Wampler Park for maintenance, operations, and repairs, not including any capital improvements. That will take the city totally out of it.

Mr. Rickett: Any objections to adding that? Hearing none, that is added to item number three under new business.

Acceptance of October 18, 2023 Meeting Agenda:

23-113 *Mr. Hickey moved; seconded by Mr. Schartiger to approve the October 18, 2023 meeting agenda. Motion carried 5-0 by roll call vote.*

September 27, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes:

23-114 *Mr. Schartiger moved; seconded by Mr. Wood to approve the September 27, 2023 Regular meeting minutes. Motion carried 5-0 by roll call vote.*

Public Comments:

My name is **Blaine Reiser**. I have a question. In 2019, this board approved the restoration of the Reservoir. Now I know Covid put a halt to all kinds of things but here it is, four years later, what's going on? I know today you are supposed to review the Wampler Splash Pad. I want to know what's going on because we need to get our Reservoir back. I'm tired of seeing the ditch! Thank you.

Mr. Hickey: Thank you

Mr. Rickett: Anybody else?

I am **Rick Camp**, we are members here at the Rec Center. I would like to know the protocol of the Rec Center for medical emergencies. I had an incident here. My wife who passed out and got sick. She had to call 911 herself and then called me in which I called 911. They sent out an ambulance squad to Aultman. We don't live far away. I got here. We had four granddaughters with us and no one attended to them and then upon arriving, I found out that nobody went in to help her out. The cleaning lady poked her head around the corner and that was it. Nor did they help the grandchildren. The one little seven-year-old, my wife was in the shower when this happened, threw on her pants. I came in yesterday to talk to Mr. Pedro who wouldn't come out of his office. He didn't know why I was there or whatever but I told them at the desk that I would like to speak to him about a medical emergency protocol. He couldn't come out of the office to talk to me. I kind of think that is a little disrespectful. Nobody was upset or anything like that. He didn't really know my reason for being there. He talked to me on the phone. There was no announcement on the loud speaker, there was no follow up from anybody. In a situation at worse, my wife is okay by the way she is still (inaudible) or she would be here. It's really concerning. I (inaudible) this myself if somebody has a heart attack, stroke, you need help immediately. Then you've got minor children involved. They huddled themselves at the door. In an emergency, and this is a what if, but anybody could have come up told those children, you are supposed to come with me and they wouldn't have known any better. I'd like to hear what the protocol is. I would like to file a complaint that it wasn't followed, if you have a formal complaint. Everybody has heard my complaint here. It's serious and I'm not pointing fingers at anybody but you have a lot of elderly here but this could happen to a young person too. We have elite athletes that have heart attacks. People at the desk, temporary or not, young or old, they should know what to do and if you have to leave that desk empty, in that situation, I think you do. That is all I have to say right now. I just wanted to make everyone aware of that.

Mr. Rickett: Steve, do you want to respond to that?

Steve Pedro: We do have a protocol for emergencies. We do have a code. We call a code. The person that was at the front desk went into the locker room, I have it on video. They went into the locker room; the lady was undressed. She came out, she said she talked to her. Our people are all trained for CPR and first aid. She didn't need first aid, she didn't need CPR. She came out and got a supervisor, who was a male so we got the custodian who is a female, to check on her. At that time, the paramedics had been there.

Rick Camp: By the time the supervisor had checked on her?

Steve Pedro: Yes, we didn't know until then that she called the paramedics

Tiana Spencer: Right. In a normal situation if we are notified and emergency personnel isn't called, we would do that and notify you as well. That had already happened.

Rick Camp: (inaudible) told me that nobody came with her back to the

Steve Pedro: When she came to the desk, our desk worker did go straight into the locker room.

Rick Camp: Did she?

Steve Pedro: Then she came out and got the supervisor, after she talked to her. I'm not defending anybody. We can always get better

Rick Camp: No, no, no. My wife wasn't all there. What she did see was the housekeeping did stick her head in

Steve Pedro: We did respond. When the supervisor who was a male found out she didn't have her clothes on, he got the female worker to go in to talk to her. She was responsive. She had already called 911. We would have called 911, had we known that. That's an unfortunate incident. I think we did respond. She got her supervisor. The code wasn't called because they were both there at the front desk. Normally we call the code over the loud speaker. If the supervisor hadn't have been there, she would have called the code. That's the protocol.

Rick Camp: I wasn't here. She wasn't able to (inaudible). She actually called me and I called 911.

Steve Pedro: I was told that she called 911 or it was already called

Tiana Spencer: Right.

Rick Camp: She was trying to call

Steve Pedro: Sure

Tiana Spencer: When the grandchild came up and notified the front desk that (inaudible) had been called already and 911 so then she went to go check on her.

Steve Pedro: Not to show any disrespect toward you, I got a phone call in my office, I was working on something, they said John wants to talk to you. I don't know who John is. That's what was said. I started talking to you, you started telling me. I wasn't going to hang up on you.

Rick Camp: My name is Rick

Steve Pedro: I'm sorry, Rick, I apologize but I wasn't going to hang up on you. I was listening to you and I understand, if you wanted me down there, I would have been down there for you. There was no disrespect towards you, I was listening to what you were telling me.

Rick Camp: I understand that, it would have been nice if you would have come down. I might not have been here today

Steve Pedro: I understand completely. I just didn't want to cut you off. That was my whole thought process

Rick Camp: Working with the public is hard but sometimes the public needs

Steve Pedro: And I respect that. I think I'm the pretty most accessible guy in this town. I take pride in that.

Rick Camp: The biggest reason why I am here is so something like that doesn't happen again

Steve Pedro: And I appreciate that, sir

Rick Camp: She was losing her lunch all this time too so I don't know how people (inaudible)

Tiana Spencer: Our staff too also filled out an incident report. Every incident that happens we fill one out. There were four staff that were involved and we have four reports for that.

Rick Camp: (inaudible)

Tiana Spencer: Yes, actually two. The front desk worker and the custodial staff

Rick Camp: I'll be in to talk to you

Steve Pedro: I'll be glad to talk to you

Mr. Rickett: Let's wrap this up. Rick, is that satisfactory to you?

Rick Camp: Yes. I wanted to be sure the incident was heard and that everybody knew where we were coming from. My concerns were met that we have protocol

Mr. Rickett: Are you satisfied?

Rick Camp: I am satisfied as long as everybody (inaudible)

Mr. Rickett: Sir?

Mr. Schartiger: Is this posted in conspicuous areas

Steve Pedro: Yes, behind the desk for the staff to make the call

Mr. Schartiger: I mean is it posted in the

Tiana Spencer: In the public? No, but each staff member on their badge, have it on the back of their badge. Sometimes in an emergency situation, they may not remember all of them

Mr. Rickett: Anybody else?

Expense Reports:

23-115 *Mr. Hickey moved; seconded by Mr. Schartiger to approve the September 2023 Parks and Recreation Expense report totaling \$236,806.24. Motion carried 5-0 by roll call vote.*

23-116 *Mr. Hickey moved; seconded by Mr. Schartiger to approve the September 2023 Legends Golf Course Expense report totaling \$220,164.24. Motion carried 5-0 by roll call vote.*

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. New Hires (Attachment)

23-117 *Mr. Hickey moved; seconded by Mr. Wood to approve the new hires. Motion carried 5-0 by roll call vote.*

Steve Pedro: We have successfully hired a new Marketing/Special Events Coordinator and a Sports Supervisor, along with a couple other part time people. It's been a rough go the last few months with lifeguards and front desk. We are working on two more lifeguards that will start, hopefully within the next two weeks

Mr. Hickey: Do these positions, the Sports Supervisor and Marketing Specialist have to go through Civil Service?

Steve Pedro: Yes

Mr. Hickey: How many applicants did we have?

Steve Pedro: For the Sports Supervisor I believe it was about 16 or 17 and for Marketing, there were over 10. I believe there were 12 or 13. We had a good pool to choose from.

Mr. Hickey: I wasn't there. What made you guys pick these certain people?

Steve Pedro: I can tell you, Alex if you would like to expand on that for the interview we did there

Mr. Wood: There is a series of questions, of interview questions to the applicants that we divided up evenly. We would ask questions and then get responses. We would grade them all

Mr. Hickey: Are resumes attached to them?

Steve Pedro: I have everybody's resumes

Mr. Rickett: Steve, could you forward those?

Steve Pedro: Absolutely

Mr. Hickey: We're not going to vote on them

Mr. Rickett: I know. We would like to see the resumes before we vote on them, but that is fine. We'll take your word today

Mr. Wood: The names are not public

Steve Pedro: Today they are. Chris Smith and Lauren Kujath

Mr. Wood: Okay

Mr. Rickett: You might want to put the names on there to motion them

Steve Pedro: They already motioned them

Mr. Rickett: No, I'm saying for what position that they got hired into

Steve Pedro: They are all on here. The Sports Supervisor is one of them and Marketing is the other

Mr. Hickey: The rest are laborers

Mr. Rickett: Thank you

Steve Pedro: You're welcome

2. Accept \$161.22 in donations for Lawndale Park improvements

23-118 Mr. Schartiger moved; seconded by Mr. Wood to accept \$161.22 in donations for Lawndale Park improvements. Motion carried 5-0 by roll call vote.

Mr. Rickett: Any questions? Julie?

3. Wampler Park Splash Pad Maintenance – Recreation Board not to exceed \$35,000

23-119 Mr. Hickey moved; seconded by Mr. Schartiger for the Recreation Board to assist with the Wampler Park Splash Pad Maintenance not to exceed \$35,000. Motion carried 5-0 by roll call vote.

Mr. Rickett: We added to #3. The Recreation Board agrees to, not to exceed \$35,000 per year for the splash pad at Wampler Park for maintenance, operations, and repairs, not including any capital improvements.

Mr. Hickey: I think this will put it to bed. I think we can move on. I think the Rec Board agreed to this the last meeting. We can move on with this project and go forward. This will be over eight years and will be about \$315,000. If everybody (inaudible), \$35,000 should be plenty because we were told at the last meeting the maximum would be about \$25,000 so that is why we made it \$35,000. We all agreed on this the last meeting, let's vote on it and get out of here.

Public Comment 1: It is very strange to me that you can or the city can come up with \$1.2 million for a splash pad but nothing has been done about the Rezzy

Public Comment 2: I agree

Mr. Rickett: Not right now fellas. We are on this topic here first. Anybody have any questions pertaining to what is here before us right now, \$35,000 a year? Do you have any objections, Jill? We have three council people here.

Ed Lewis: What does this say, you're agreeing to the \$35,000. If it goes over, what happens?

Mr. Hickey: Well, wait a minute. We were told it was only going to be \$25,000

Ed Lewis: I understand, but what if something were to happen

Mr. Hickey: Well, that's where your \$75,000 comes in

Ed Lewis: That's what I'm wondering about.

Mr. Rickett: What, you'll still keep that \$75,000?

Ed Lewis: Sure

Mr. Hickey: That's up to them. They haven't voted on it. This limits our exposure. We can't just be doing this project, Ed

Ed Lewis: I understand that

Mr. Hickey: Over eight years, that is \$315,000 for this project

Ed Lewis: You cap it after \$35,000 then what?

Mr. Hickey: Okay. I asked the question and I was told that it would be between \$20,000 and \$35,000. Now, if they are telling the truth, \$35,000 should be plenty. If it goes over that, we will earmark that \$75,000 if council gives it to us for special emergencies.

Ed Lewis: So, it will still get covered

Mr. Hickey: Yes

Ed Lewis: As long as it gets covered

Mr. Hickey: If I were you guys, I would earmark that \$75,000 for special emergencies only for the splash pad

Ed Lewis: I can present this to council. You guys are saying that you are committed essentially budgeting this and I will present this to the members of council. My fellow members of council (inaudible)

Mr. Hickey: I don't understand. This was just dumped in our lap three weeks ago and I have to agree with Mr. Wood. This was a million-dollar project and we have no idea if we can afford this. We all agreed at the last meeting that we would cap it at \$35,000.

Ed Lewis: You guys are budgeting for \$35,000 per year. We are providing (inaudible) in case something would occur where we exceed that

Mr. Hickey: And I specifically said for maintenance, repairs and operations. It has nothing to do with capital improvements

Public Comment: Just curious, as a citizen, how many months a year will this be open and actually operational?

Steve Pedro: Three months

Public Comment: Just three months?

Mr. Rickett: Yes, summer. Now, I've got one other question. Let's say something, God forbid, goes down and it's \$200,000, what do we do?

Public Comment: You fix it. That's what everybody has to do

Ed Lewis: Technically, I would say that, at the end of the day, if you look at if the financing of the Park and Rec Board is exhausted and one of the parks needed some kind of (inaudible). If anything in the park system needed something and you have your funds exhausted, City Council would (inaudible). Does that help answer it?

Mr. Rickett: Yes

Mr. Hickey: The whole problem is. I agree with Mr. Reiser. We should have some money for the Rezzy for grants. We agreed to that. This project was dumped on us by the administration. Three weeks ago was the first time we found out about it. We are getting a million-dollar project and we really haven't had time to look at it

Ed Lewis: You are saying you didn't find out...a year ago

Mr. Hickey: It's been more than a year ago

Ed Lewis: Well a little over a year ago this body did agree to have a Splash Pad at Wampler Park. This body was well aware of the splash pad cost. You were aware of the amount of money it was going to cost

Mr. Hickey: We weren't aware of the money. We didn't agree to the money

Ed Lewis: You were using state capital dollars in order to fund it. That was shared. What I believe you may not have received or wasn't certain about was the fact the layout of the splash pad

Mr. Hickey: We approved the site for Wampler Park, that was it. That's all we did. There was no money talked about, none. So, this solves that for the Rec Board so we can move forward

Ed Lewis: Absolutely and I think we are all on the same page

Mr. Rickett: Yes, sir?

Mr. Wood: What is the plan for the process? Will we be told of other projects like this so we don't (inaudible)?

Ed Lewis: From my understanding, (inaudible) from our law department. You will have the full authority to enter into if you decide to do something at the Rezzy so that there are the means and (inaudible)

Mr. Hickey: We would apply for grants?

Ed Lewis: You would apply for grants

Mr. Hickey: I get that then we would vote on the grant, which we already have

Ed Lewis: Say, you went out and applied for a grant. Columbus said, yes, we definitely will put the money in your pocket. You would then have to make a legislation request to the city. We would pass that on to you because we are the recipient of your funds and the equity. You would just have (inaudible)

Mr. Wood: Let's say that the city does go out and do the (inaudible) then all of a sudden what is their responsibility?

Ed Lewis: It would be my hopes that they would have operation from day one if they were (inaudible) and typically this is one thing not to (inaudible) up on

Mr. Rickett: Yes, ma'am?

Public Comment 1: And I apologize for coming late to this but if you are putting together money. Are you going to take care of the park you have? If you drive down Hankins Road, is that a safe place to take my kids to play? You have a whole wall of that creek that's been caved in. You don't have maintenance money to maintain the park we have? Why isn't the park being taken care of?

Public Comment 2: Somebody was killed there

Public Comment 1: Yes, that's right. That guy that got killed in that creek. You can't worry about putting new stuff out. It's a nice creek.

Mr. Hickey: There's the chairman. He can put it on the agenda for the next meeting we have.

Public Comment 1: Where is the chairman?

Mr. Hickey: Right here

Public Comment 1: So, we are saying that has been in that condition. Can you pick up the bricks and get rid of them?

Mr. Rickett: Can we finish on the topic that we've got. We'll finish this. We'll put it on the agenda for discussion. If you guys want to come back the next meeting we'll have that discussion. For now, we have to finish what we have in front of us. Not to cut you off.

Public Comment 1: No, that's okay. Go ahead.

Mr. Rickett: We have a motion in front of us. Can you read the motion, please?

Mr. Hickey: I'll read it. The Recreation Board agrees to, not to exceed \$35,000 per year for the splash pad at Wampler Park for maintenance, operations, and repairs, not including any capital improvements.

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**

Adjournment

23-120 *Mr. Schartiger moved; seconded by Mr. Hickey to adjourn the Recreation Board Meeting. Motion carried 5-0 by roll call vote.*

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:26 pm. The next scheduled regular meeting will be on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 5:00 pm at the Massillon Recreation Center.

Transcribed By: *Carol Leonard, Office Manager*