



## MASSILLON RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES September 27, 2023

The Massillon Recreation Board met in regular session on September 27, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

### **Board Members:**

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

*Others Present:* Julie Harwig-Smith, Jamie Slutz

### **Staff Members:**

*Present:* Steve Pedro, Carol Leonard, Caroline Ferrel, Carrie Lowry, Joe Pape, Steve Yacono

### **Acceptance of September 27, 2023 Meeting Agenda:**

*23-093 Mr. Schartiger moved; seconded by Mr. Wood to approve the September 27, 2023 meeting agenda. Motion carried 3-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Hickey voted against because he feels the Budgets and Salaries should be voted separately at a different meeting.*

### **August 16, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes:**

*23-094 Mr. Hickey moved; seconded by Mr. Wood to approve the August 16, 2023 Regular meeting minutes. Motion carried 4-0 by roll call vote.*

### **Public Comments:**

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** Spoke about Lawndale Park. They have done everything they wanted to do. They are  $\frac{3}{4}$  completed with the basketball courts and the fence. The courts were painted with white paint and they are going to start painting the mural this week. They are extremely pleased and happy with that. The monkey bars are planning to come down. Everybody who plays up there are kids of all different ages. These monkey bars, I grew up with them.

**Steve Pedro:** Our insurance comes through every two years and recommends those old units come down.

**Mr. Rickett:** Just recommends?

**Mr. Hickey:** Can I ask a question?

**Steve Pedro:** Yes

**Mr. Hickey:** Have we had any claims?

**Steve Pedro:** We have had any claims. You know, they recommend them coming down but if you want me to keep them up, I'll be glad to keep them up but they have recommended, I've been here 7 years and they have recommended 3 times that all those old apparatuses come down.

**Mr. Hickey:** What does it do for us if we take them down?

**Steve Pedro:** It's just gone

**Mr. Hickey:** Oh, so it doesn't reduce the premium or anything like that?

**Steve Pedro:** No

**Mr. Hickey:** No, no, I say keep them

**Mr. Wood:** I recommend them keeping them and I say don't take them down

**Steve Pedro:** Thank you for backing me up on that

**Mr. Hickey:** You explained it well

**Steve Pedro:** If I may say something

**Mr. Hickey:** Yes, sure

**Steve Pedro:** Mr. Rickett, you forgot #3

**Mr. Rickett:** Approval of the minutes. Yes, I did sir. Thanks Steve.

**Steve Pedro:** You're welcome. Thank Carol

**Mr. Rickett:** Thanks Carol

**Carol Leonard:** You're welcome

**Expense Reports:**

*23-095 Mr. Hickey moved; seconded by Mr. Schartiger to approve the August 2023 Parks and Recreation Expense report totaling \$234,295.22. Motion carried 4-0 by roll call vote.*

*23-096 Mr. Hickey moved; seconded by Mr. Schartiger to approve the August 2023 Legends Golf Course Expense report totaling \$186,375.18. Motion carried 4-0 by roll call vote.*

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Mr. Hickey:** I was going to bring up the Splash Pad but it is already on the agenda

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **1. New Hires (Attachment)**

**23-097** *Mr. Schartiger moved; seconded by Mr. Wood to approve the new hires. Motion carried 4-0 by roll call vote.*

**Mr. Hickey:** I do have a question on these new hires. This is what I was kind of talking about on the budget. I mean to pay these people for \$10 an hour. Do you get people for \$10 an hour?

**Steve Pedro:** We do and we are going to address that for 2024 in our next meeting for the pay raises

**Mr. Hickey:** Okay

**Steve Pedro:** I'm not sure but just so you all know, I read online that minimum wage is going up to \$12 so if that happens, we are surely going to go to \$12 for minimum but I asked the Auditor's office today and they said they haven't had any notification yet. But, I am going to explain a couple of things when we talk and we are going to address that.

**Mr. Hickey:** My apologies

**Steve Pedro:** No, that's fine. It's a good question

**Mr. Rickett:** That will throw some budgets off

**Steve Pedro:** Well, but we don't know. As of right now, the answer is no but that could change

### **2. Accept \$500.00 in donations for Lawndale Park improvements**

**23-098** *Mr. Hickey moved; seconded by Mr. Schartiger to accept \$500.00 in donations for Lawndale Park improvements. Motion carried 4-0 by roll call vote.*

**Mr. Rickett:** Julie who does that come from?

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** Per donation, anywhere from \$5 to hundreds of dollars

**Steve Pedro:** That was from Regal Cinema

**Mr. Hickey:** Where is all this money going? For Lawndale Park?

**Steve Pedro:** For Lawndale Park. It's already been spent.

**Mr. Hickey:** What did we spend it on?

**Steve Pedro:** The wall is almost \$13,000 with painting. The gaga pit was \$3,000. We got playground mulch. We did the basketball court. We got the fence. It's all in the improvement. We did a lot of it but theirs was spent pretty quickly but it's a good thing. And, in my report, I'd like to talk about that as well.

3. **Appropriate \$80,940.00 from the Legends carryover to the following Legends Accounts – \$46,000.00 to Salary Account - \$9,000.00 to Bank Charges - \$5,000.00 to Supply Line - \$6,400.00 P.E.R.S. - \$9,500.00 to Sales Taxes – and \$5,000.00 to Utilities**

**23-099 Mr. Hickey moved; seconded by Mr. Schartiger to appropriate \$80,940.00 from the Legends carryover to the following Legends Accounts – \$46,000.00 to Salary Account - \$9,000.00 to Bank Charges - \$5,000.00 to Supply Line - \$6,400.00 P.E.R.S. - \$9,500.00 to Sales Taxes – and \$5,000.00 to Utilities. Motion carried 4-0 by roll call vote.**

**Steve Pedro:** This is to get us through the end of the year. It's almost the same as last year. Our salary account, we've had more people because we've had more business. Bank charges are up, obviously because of more business. The supply line, again, we are spending more with more people there. Along with the salary, the P.E.R.S. and then the sales tax and obviously the utilities.

**Mr. Wood:** Is this usual/customary?

**Steve Pedro:** At the end of the year we've had to stay open longer because of more business and we're keeping more people on. We are staying open longer. The course used to close in November every year. That stopped several years ago.

**Mr. Wood:** What I mean is to move the money around?

**Steve Pedro:** Yes

**Mr. Hickey:** Where else could you put it? Why don't you ask that question?

**Steve Pedro:** It would go from the carryover into these lines.

**Mr. Hickey:** Where are you taking it from now?

**Steve Pedro:** The carryover

**Mr. Hickey:** No, I mean the whole budget. Does that come from the carryover?

**Steve Pedro:** No, that comes from the certification then whatever we have in the carryover, if we need more towards the end of the year.

**Mr. Hickey:** The Legends, all their money comes from the carryover?

**Steve Pedro:** All this money comes from the Legends carryover, yes.

**Mr. Hickey:** I understand that. I don't think he does. If they were to put this \$80,000 in the account you normally take out, what is the account called?

**Steve Pedro:** It is the 1234-920. If we would have budgeted that.

**Mr. Hickey:** If you would have budgeted that money, that's where it would come from?

**Steve Pedro:** Yes. I'm sorry, we wouldn't have had to do this. Yes.

**Mr. Rickett**: Why isn't it budgeted?

**Steve Pedro**: I think we budget conservatively and then we had another great year.

**4a. 2024 Budget – Parks & Recreation (Attachment)**

**23-100** *Mr. Hickey moved; seconded by Mr. Wood to table the 2024 Budget for Parks & Recreation for a Work Session to be held on Wednesday, October 4 at 5:00 pm*

**4b. 2024 Budget – Legends Golf Course (Attachment)**

**23-101** *Mr. Hickey moved; seconded by Mr. Wood to table the 2024 Budget for Legends Golf Course for a Work Session to be held on Wednesday, October 4 at 5:00 pm*

**5. Wampler Park Splash Pad discussion**

**23-102** *Mr. Hickey moved; seconded by Mr. Wood*

**Julie Harwig-Smith**: We've had two readings of the community development for the splash pad for the (inaudible) where the Director of Public Safety will get the bids for the splash pad. The BOC which is made up of Mayor Kathy Catazaro-Perry, the Public Service Director, Barb Sylvester and (inaudible). Everybody on council does support the splash pad. A lot of it can't be answered until you have

**Mr. Hickey**: Can I stop you right there?

**Julie Harwig-Smith**: Sure

**Mr. Hickey**: I don't have a problem with the splash pad. I'm all for it too but why do they choose what we are going to pay for?

**Julie Harwig-Smith**: And, that was my question last week which, I'm new to council so I don't know every role or the legislation and I still don't know which way is the answer but Steve has been working side-by-side with them and they've been working on trying to get the funds for this. I want to make this happen. But my concern is that I thought it would be more appropriate, it wasn't about it being on my committee. I felt it was more appropriate that Steve was the final decision maker and the Board had the decision on choosing which we talked about. I just wanted to know if that was okay with you or if you are okay with how it is, we'll just pass it. The bad thing about that is that we are being asked questions but we really don't know the answer. We were given a plan with rod iron fence around and now we are hearing no fence and to me that is a concern because of all the vandalism. We were asked questions about cost. Maybe the decision that they are going with a fresh water system. Go to the CDC and type in splash pads and it comes up. It gives a lot of recommendations. What triggered it was, a child died in New York. What they died from was an infection. So regardless of what system you use, there is going to have to be a basic disinfection on a daily basis. Those aren't issues now.

**Mr. Hickey**: What system do you think we should use? You seem to be up on this.

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** I don't know because I don't know the actual cost. I tried to figure them out and there is no way to. I did a research of a splash pad system where the water drains into a tank, chlorine or bromine. We can keep the same water for a while then change it once in a while. Chemical costs can be huge. Initial cost of the tank. There are just pros and cons. They asked about how much water. An average splash pad

**Mr. Hickey:** I can stop you right there. This was...was this 6 years ago or 5 years ago we voted on to...maybe it was 5 years ago

**Mr. Rickett:** 2018

**Steve Pedro:** 2018

**Mr. Hickey:** Okay. I was told by the Safety Service Director then, it isn't the same one. It was Will Smith. It would cost us anywhere from \$5,000 and \$20,000. Now, I'm sure the cost has escalated since then.

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** Steve has been working hard on this and he has a lot of answers.

**Mr. Hickey:** There is one thing that concerns me that you said before we move on. As much vandalism that we have, don't you think we need a fence?

**Steve Pedro:** I proposed we put a fence. I started calling people and looking around and they don't put a fence up for some reason. Now, is little Steve Pedro going to jump over that fence? Darn right he is but I would prefer we have a fence. And, I've told them that, yes.

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** Everything that was shown to us, has a rod iron fence around it. Those were things we were shown but then there are things they are not doing so I don't know because I don't know what they are doing.

**Mr. Hickey:** Joe, you are in the parks the most, what do you think?

**Joe Pape:** When are you going to have it open? Who is going to lock it? Who is going to open it?

**Steve Pedro:** It's not going to have a lock on it. It's going to be deterrent

**Mr. Rickett:** You are going to have to lock that, I'm sorry. If you don't lock that, that thing is going to get destroyed

**Steve Pedro:** You don't man the splash pad

**Mr. Rickett:** I understand

**Steve Pedro:** I'm not saying we can't lock it. That's a formality.

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** The water cost, Aqua Ohio is 0.0007459394 per gallon. Average splash pad is \$5,000.

**Mr. Hickey:** Is that per month?

**Mr. Rickett:** Per day

**Steve Pedro:** No, per month

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** The smallest splash pad would be like 5,000 gallons per day. A three-month water cost would be \$3,356.00. It would be great if Aqua Ohio would just donate the water to the splash pad. Maybe someone can talk to them about that. Usually the biggest size is 20,000 gallons per day and that would cost over a three-month period, approximately \$13,400.00. This is just based on what I looked on splash pads. I just thought I would give you what you guys are going to be looking at because like I said, council people are asking these questions and we really have no control over anything. We are not the decision makers on the bid, we are not included in the final thing. It's going to be the Control Board with Steve and Steve is working with them. I just wanted to make sure you guys

**Mr. Hickey:** I don't think Steve has much control over the Control Board

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** As I was looking through things, they recommend, in order to decrease the bacteria, an outdoor shower which is just an extra thing you step in to before you enter into the splash pad to rinse off before you go in. I don't believe that was in any plans.

**Mr. Hickey:** Some people won't rinse off unless somebody is there monitoring it.

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** Right. They are supposed to be supervised by a parent. That would be issues you guys can deal with down the road. People are asking me these questions the past month. It's really not questions for us because we aren't choosing anything, we're not taking bids, we're not going to see the final plan and we are not going to approve the final plan. It's going to be the Control Board. And my concern was why isn't it with the Park Board. Council has one more reading.

**Mr. Hickey:** The Rec Board, Julie

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** I'm sorry, the Recreation Board. I apologize, I say that all the time. It's like habit, I am so sorry. Anyhow, they would like Moe and Steve and anyone else...they want your blessing that whatever is going to happen, you guys are okay with it. If that's the case then we should have no problem

**Mr. Hickey:** This is the first any of these figures have been brought to us

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** Well, these are just estimates that I looked up

**Mr. Hickey:** This was passed last year. Who dropped the ball?

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** Why haven't they gone to bid?

**Mr. Hickey:** Yes

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** I don't know

**Steve Pedro:** We've been waiting on a design from Bran Setter Carol

**Mr. Rickett:** Okay. I haven't seen any drawings whatsoever

**Steve Pedro:** I got one on September 7<sup>th</sup> that I am going to show you today

**Mr. Rickett:** September 7<sup>th</sup>?

**Steve Pedro:** We haven't met since then

**Mr. Rickett:** Okay. Can we see that now?

**Steve Pedro:** Yes, I have it right here

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** Basically, that's it and that is where council stands and we need you guys to show up for us to pass it. If you guys want things changed, the legislation will...

**Mr. Hickey:** I'm not against it. I don't mean to cut on this administration but this...it's always been an emergency thing in the past instead of us...

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** This has actually gone through two readings...

**Mr. Hickey:** This is the first time it has come to the Recreation Board, right here. We have not been part of anything.

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** That was my concern. That's why I thought the legislation should be under Parks

**Mr. Rickett:** You would have thought the city would have learned with Genshaft. When they redid Genshaft in 2014 or 2013, whenever it was, we weren't involved with the upgrades. That was all the Mayor's office and Mr. Genshaft. The fences (inaudible) and the (inaudible) were at (inaudible). We had to go back and spend another million dollars to move the fences back and we still haven't moved the lights back. They got the fences up to 10 ft. which is ASC Certified but you still can't run the state and district tournaments on that because they have to be 300 (inaudible) according to them. We can run sanctioned tournaments but we can't run the state or districts (inaudible).

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** I'm under attack for bringing this up and asking it to be changed. I understand how hard they have work to make this happen

**Mr. Hickey:** No, no, I want this too but it sounds like it is going to be a very expensive adventure for us.

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** We are asked the questions and you guys are the one's ultimately responsible and we have no control and you have no say

**Mr. Rickett:** Steve is going to council on Monday. What answers are we going to supply when we just now received this and haven't had a chance to go over it with anybody?



**Steve Pedro:** I have this, what I want to present to you is what I'd like to present to council on Monday.

**Mr. Hickey:** Can I ask you a question? When we passed this, just refresh my memory, did we vote just to move it to Wampler Park?

**Steve Pedro:** We voted for the City Administration to raise the funds, build it, and give it to us when it is done. It was the same as Duncan Plaza

**Mr. Rickett:** We voted that. Dave Maley was sitting here and I asked Dave Maley where was the drawings and he said he would provide the drawings and talk to us before it going out to bid. I haven't seen anything.

**Steve Pedro:** Well, I'll take blame for that right now because if I missed that in my mind. I apologize. We have a preliminary drawing. This is a rendering of what it is going to look like, without all the details. Until it goes out to bid, we don't know how much it is going to cost. It could be different. Somebody could come back with a lower bid. It's going to have a ceiling of 1.1 million, I believe is the number. They've raised all the money. We had to put nothing into it.

**Mr. Hickey:** Can we at least see the bids and make a decision on this?

**Steve Pedro:** Absolutely. Every time we've had a bid opening, I've asked...Moe went with me one time for the tennis courts. We can go to the bid opening. They are not going to tell us we can't come to the bid opening, they wouldn't do that. I can't imagine that anybody would. I have some information I want to share with you...I want to share this with council. I was at a council meeting about a month ago and I was there for an appropriation that we have to do. Then they started asking about the splash pad and they were asking Dave and then they said Steve, why don't you come up here. Well, Steve really hasn't done anything with it to this point and rightfully so, I think. I went to a couple of meetings. I told them I wanted a fence but other than that, we haven't been directly involved.

**Mr. Hickey:** Part of the conversation?

**Steve Pedro:** So since then, I won't say not part of the conversation, but there really hasn't been a whole lot until I was there last time is what I am saying. With that being said, they have a preliminary drawing. They don't have a final drawing...there may be an issue, maybe they want more concrete around it, the fence should or should not be added. I think there should be a fence around it. I have been very adamant about that when they asked me about that. I talked to Plain Township. They have a splash pad that is similar to the one that we would like to build. It's a flow through system. The cost includes water, electricity, and man hours for maintenance. Utility costs are approximately \$17,000 to \$18,000 a year and he told me that was a little high for this year. He said it could be lower if the temperature is. If it is lower, it is not going to evaporate as much. If you see the quote, the quote under maintenance cost. It says cost is approximately \$17,000 to \$18,000 per year with variables of dry/wet, hot/cool weather will play into that. Labor costs will also vary but we built that clean up in our morning routines and staff for our afternoon shifts which is two staff at roughly \$28 per hour per person which is a pretty hefty fee there...times 2 days a week times 14 weekends. I asked him about sanitization. He said they do it about every other day. Every two or three days is what he said. We have that capability with some of the stuff we had with Covid. We have a machine, we can spray it down. The water use for this size is probably

closer to the 70-80 gallons per minute. There is a range from 70-150, again, depending on if it is full of kids. There are activators that start the sprayers so there could be more or less. I don't think it will go below 70 though. It said that there is less bacteria and mold growth than in a recycling system. I read that on playquest.ca if you want to look that up. Chemicals are not needed for water treatment. Electricity is less because you only need single phase because we don't have pumps and regulators. We have a pump but it is just pumping water to the features, rather than recycling the water and recirculating it. The electricity is only used when the pad is open. A recirculating pad is a 24-hr. recirculation in the tank. I'm just telling you this, I'm not picking one. They both have their pros and cons.

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** Do you have this in our reports?

**Steve Pedro:** I do not. I can make you a copy of this. I just put this together today to bring. Maintenance includes emptying trash, periodic inspections, sanitizing and he said they power wash it once a month. Again, this year was very dry so there is probably less dirt and mud so he said they power washed it once a month this year. It might be every other week, it might be every week, just depending on the weather. The winterization costs were just basic. It would be like doing a restroom in a park, is what he told me. The City of Green has a circulating, recycling system. I've been told by them they wished they didn't have that, they wished they had the flow system. He didn't give me a number. We tried and tried, he is at a training, apparently. The water costs are obviously lower because they bring the water in and recirculate it constantly. Now, if it evaporates, they may have to load it up again, I don't know how much that goes. The electricity cost is 2-3 times higher because they have to have a double to triple phase, 30-amp, 220-volt service. The electricity constantly runs to circulate the water in the tank. Then you have to have a water treatment system of some sort and then again this is just what I am reading from the information from this play quest. You have to buy chemicals and believe me, I know the chemicals cost a lot for what we do here at the Rec Center. They say that recycling water can cause more bacteria. That's an opinion, I would say. They have daily monitoring of the equipment. Every day they have to have somebody there to monitor the equipment to make sure it is working right. They have to do water tests every day because they are treating the water as we do here.

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** Actually, they would have to do it every 4 hours

**Steve Pedro:** Yes, we do ours I think 3 times a day from 5:30 am – 8:00 pm

**Mr. Hickey:** Does anybody in this room have an estimate of what this is going to totally cost over a year

**Steve Pedro:** I think it will be about \$25,000 a year

**Mr. Hickey:** A year? That's utilities, water

**Steve Pedro:** That's water, electric and man power. That's with a flow through system. With a recycling system, I would image...I haven't been able to find an exact number but like I said, you have to buy chlorine, you have to sanitize frequently because of the chemicals. The other negative thing about treated water is it takes it's toll on the surface as well, a little quicker.

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** Plus, on the little kid's skin and eyes, I think the flow through would

**Steve Pedro:** That's why we talked about the flow through. I can tell you everybody...I would prefer the flow through

**Mr. Hickey:** What do you like, Julie or are you not sure yet?

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** Well, I just don't know the costs and they are asking these questions and wanting us to pass this and we don't know.

**Mr. Hickey:** Sure

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** Technically, if my little grandkids were in it and it is disinfected daily and there is clean water coming out, there's no mold growing on anything, I would rather have fresh water going down on their faces than chlorine water

**Mr. Hickey:** Do you have a rough estimate of what clean water would cost?

**Steve Pedro:** Do you mean treated water?

**Mr. Hickey:** Yes

**Steve Pedro:** Mark, if I made a guess, I can't give you an educated guess. I think it would be more only because of the cost of the chemicals and the constant electricity, a 24-hour moving motor. I've been told it's more than that but I don't have a number.

**Mr. Hickey:** If somebody gets sick, you think our monkey bars are a liability, I think this will be the liability.

**Steve Pedro:** I don't agree with that. That's why when we got the letter from the health department about Oak Knoll Park, that's done. We'll talk next month. We have the master plan and we'll talk about that and how we are going to move forward over there.

**Mr. Hickey:** You know, I am all for this, I just would like to see some kind of figures and what the hell I'm gong to get stuck with.

**Steve Pedro:** I'm guessing about \$25,000 a year with the flow through system

**Mr. Rickett:** Unless nothing breaks

**Steve Pedro:** We don't budget for that

**Mr. Rickett:** I know...we just spent \$400,000 in the Rec Center

**Steve Pedro:** \$500,000

**Mr. Rickett:** \$500,000 on what, five pieces of equipment?

**Steve Pedro:** In 18 years, we might have to do that again. I don't know.

**Mr. Hickey:** When you say manpower, what do you mean by manpower?

**Steve Pedro:** Emptying the trash, we have guys out every morning getting trash or in the evening. If we are going to lock the gate, we are going to have to open and lock the gate. We would set our hours. We decide the hours, just like the skate rink. This year we are going to adjust them a little bit according to what we did last year. If most of the kids are there from 10-4, we are going to be open 10-4 or maybe one night we are open until 7:00, until dark or whatever. The man hours are picking up trash, obviously inspecting it, while you are there, you might as well walk through the building, right? From what I've been told and the information I found, I'm guessing about \$25,000. I'll say up to \$30,000 but I don't think it is going to be that much, from the way it sounds.

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** I have a question that no one has ever asked, but if we are doing the flow through and we turn it on at 12:00 and it's turned off at 7:00...

**Steve Pedro:** There are sensors on them. It will go off, you can set your timers. When there are no kids in there, it's not going to be running whether we are open or not

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** No one has ever explained that to us

**Steve Pedro:** All these features have sensors on them so if Steve walks up and hits a button, it comes on for 2, 3, we might set it for 3 minutes and if nobody else touches that button, it's going to go off. Then if there are 100 kids in there, it's going to be running but when they leave and nobody is on this side, it's not going to run unless somebody hits the sensor

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** As far as the legislation, do you feel that we should change it to approval of the Board of Control but then also have approval of you guys somehow in here?

**Steve Pedro:** I'm sure we can be included in the bid opening

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** I mean, do we need to change it on the legislation because right now the legislation is...

**Steve Pedro:** I'm going to be at the bid offer and any one of you can come with me

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** I know but it is not written that way

**Mr. Hickey:** You can take two

**Steve Pedro:** Anybody can come with me. I don't know if you want to write new legislation for that

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** I mean, if you guys are fine the way it is

**Mr. Hickey:** I just have one question. How did it start out at Parks and go over to Community Development?

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** That was one of my questions because everything that has come through on it has been through the (inaudible).

**Mr. Hickey:** I mean, is there a reason, is it a cost?

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** They said it's because it's a municipal project, they think. No one has talked to legal about, I don't know

**Mr. Rickett:** What will be explained Monday?

**Steve Pedro:** This, what I just told you. They don't know any of this, correct?

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** Correct

**Steve Pedro:** All of this stuff that I've just done

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** (inaudible) I mean if you guys are fine to leave it the way it is, we'll leave it the way it is. We're done. The questions we are asking, we really don't know. If you guys want to be on, then you guys have to let us know that you want the legislation changed it to say it includes you

**Steve Pedro:** If you want to change it, that's fine. We are going to be at the bid opening, whether one of you guys or two of you guys come with me, that is fine. I'm going to be at the bid opening. Joe will probably be at the bid opening.

**Joe Pape:** How long is it going to be open?

**Steve Pedro:** From Memorial Day to Labor Day, just like a pool

**Mr. Hickey:** I think you should have somebody involved from the Board

**Steve Pedro:** I don't think that is an issue. Nobody is going to tell us we can't come to that

**Mr. Hickey:** Now, you don't have a vote, but I think you should have input

**Steve Pedro:** The bid opening, there is no voting. It's going to come in the lowest, best, etc.

**Mr. Rickett:** You accept a bid that day, do you?

**Steve Pedro:** We don't tell them that. We go through them right there, just like we did with the tennis courts. We went through them right there.

**Mr. Rickett:** I know...we did make a decision that day

**Steve Pedro:** Well, there was no other meeting though. We see what was there

**Mr. Rickett:** I'm saying, are we going to get a chance to explore what the bids are, how they come in and what bids we want to accept?

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** That's the Control Board, not you guys

**Steve Pedro:** Board of Control. Board of Control is, and I may be wrong, they just approve spending over \$5,000. They don't do the bid opening. The Engineering Department, the Director...

**Mr. Rickett:** Well, part of the Board of Control is Dave Maley and now you mention the Engineering Department

**Steve Pedro:** Dave is not Engineering

**Mr. Rickett:** Well, it still counts

**Steve Pedro:** He's Economical Development. When you open the bid, who ever is there, we all see the bids

**Mr. Hickey:** I want to get this moving as fast as possible to get the best deal for us. That's my goal. That is the goal. I think it's been too long now.

**Mr. Rickett:** It's been 5 years

**Mr. Hickey:** No, but I mean we looked at this last year, not this year, it was last year

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** The final approval of the best bidder will be by the Board of Control and you guys are okay with that now. That's the question.

**Mr. Hickey:** I don't see that we have a choice in this at this point and time

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** Because we are so late in the game?

**Mr. Hickey:** Yes

**Mr. Rickett:** But if it breaks, it's the Board of Control's problem

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** No.

**Mr. Rickett:** We have no say in this, but we are responsible to fix it and pay for it if it breaks, correct? That's really a good deal.

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** There may be a way where we can include it, like legally include you guys in it.

**Mr. Rickett:** If the city kicked in to help for maintenance, it's their idea, it's just like the Legends. The Legends was their idea.

**Mr. Hickey:** I know. Take it easy Moe.

**Mr. Rickett:** The city does this to us all the time

**Mr. Hickey:** I get it

**Mr. Rickett:** We don't have answers but we are going to build it and you guys are going to pay for it and take care of it

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** What we can do, when you come on Monday, you can say that we want to be included in the final decision and we can take it to the attorney and he can rewrite it and waive the readings and it still will be the Director of Department of Safety, it will still be the Board of Control and we can write in there that it would be upon your approval also. That's what I wanted

and that's what I brought up. Actually, what I brought up was to switch it to Steve and the Recreation Board. We just need to know so we can move forward because we vote twice a month in a meeting and twice a month in a work session. We are up for our third reading this next upcoming Tuesday. Then I made everyone angry because I brought up these issues because basically everything they've been asking means nothing because we are not the ones voting on anything or having any control over it and that was my issue. And, I know they work with Steve and everything too but for us to pass it, we just want to know if everyone is good with it and if everyone is good with it, then we are good with it.

**Mr. Hickey:** Well, the more you challenge, the more it's going to get roadblocks. You follow what I am saying? But I think we should be part of the process.

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** Alright. Well you can state that. I don't know if we can get it written up ahead of time Steve. If they can somehow just include it. Still keep it as that and also...

**Mr. Hickey:** I mean, it's in a park

**Steve Pedro:** I'll do whatever you want me to do. I don't know if I have the authority because it is a city project as of today

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** Yeah, I don't know then

**Steve Pedro:** Until it's done officially

**Mr. Hickey:** Sometimes you just have to wave the white flag and

**Steve Pedro:** I think, my opinion and

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** Well I just want to work with you. We are city council, let's just be done with it

**Steve Pedro:** I think if we go to city council Monday and we say, I'm already part of the process but we want to be a part of the final decision.

**Mr. Rickett:** Are you protecting us any?

**Steve Pedro:** To be a part of the final decision?

**Mr. Rickett:** Well the parks. I mean are you helping us out. It seems like you are just going along with whatever...

**Steve Pedro:** No, I'm answering what she asked

**Mr. Rickett:** Well, we've never been asked these questions before. Why now? You've been a part of the process the whole time, you could have kept us informed a little bit

**Steve Pedro:** Moe, you asked me about it two months ago if it was (inaudible) and I told you about it and it wasn't but there was nothing until I got this on September 7<sup>th</sup>.



**Mr. Hickey:** Are you saying that they didn't come forward?

**Steve Pedro:** The preliminary design didn't come through. We are waiting on Vortex to design the thing.

**Mr. Hickey:** And that took almost a year? Is that what you are saying?

**Steve Pedro:** I just got it

**Mr. Hickey:** Okay

**Mr. Rickett:** And this is just a preliminary so this isn't even the final

**Steve Pedro:** No

**Mr. Hickey:** So basically, you are saying this is a city project. They are the ones that basically dropped the ball

**Steve Pedro:** Well I'm not blaming anybody

**Mr. Hickey:** Well, I mean one year to get something done, that is a long time

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** Can I see that September 7<sup>th</sup> one? Council has not seen any of this

**Mr. Hickey:** Oh, it hasn't?

**Steve Pedro:** To drop the ball, I'm not going to say that for you or anybody, I mean to/for against us or them. Whatever you want me to do

**Mr. Hickey:** No, it's not that I just...I mean, boom it just falls in our lap now and it's been a year since we passed this. They're not out to keep us informed, that's my impression of it and I'm not going to say anymore because I want this thing to go

**Mr. Rickett:** I'm not against the project, I just want it done right

**Mr. Hickey:** It's typical of this administration

**Mr. Rickett:** We are on a fixed income, parks and rec. We get 2 ½ - 3 million dollars a year plus our income on (inaudible) and we operate on that. Every time we get something added on like 25-30 thousand extra a year, that takes away with what we can do (inaudible). And I'm just saying, we've got to watch that. I mean everything is going up, the salaries are going up, our cost of business is going up. Everything is going up and I just want us to watch. It's great for the city. They get funds and they build it and they get the glory and they throw it on the Parks and Rec to take care of and pay for it.

**Mr. Hickey:** Julie, you seem to be the most up to date on this. I'm going to rely on your decision, what do you think we should do?



**Julie Harwig-Smith:** If you guys want to be a part of this decision, they want you to be there. At least Moe and maybe a couple of you. I think keep moving forward and the last thing that was said was that it needs the Board of Control and the Recreation Board's approval. That way you are included and this is the bottom line. I don't know if they would agree to that, we'll have to talk because I don't know the legal aspects of when you are writing the board minutes. All I know is that my concern was that

**Mr. Hickey:** I'll be honest with you, usually I'm up on this stuff but you are ahead of me on this one. I think you should be part of the process. You seem to be the most knowledgeable in the room on what is going on.

**Mr. Rickett:** I agree

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** Steve knows what's going on. I'm just trying to get it through council. I'm trying to get it through council responsibly. I have people biting back at me. I've been sitting there for two months not saying much because I want it to go through and all the questions they are asking we really can't answer and it doesn't matter what answer they give us, they give us different answers and we don't have the final say and we are not responsible when it is all done. You guys are and that was my concern to bring it up. I wasn't trying to stir the pot but they'd like you guys, you know, hear from Steve and there should be a way, maybe we can get the legislation rewritten before Tuesday so we can still vote. Right now, they tabled it until they hear from you guys.

**Steve Pedro:** And they ask for me and Moe as acting president but anybody can come right?

**Mr. Hickey:** If you're not biting back, you're not doing your job

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** Yeah, I don't know

**Mr. Hickey:** I'm more confused than ever

**Steve Pedro:** We are going to council and I'm going to present what I just presented to give them that information then if you have something to say, you're talking, you're going to present this

**Mr. Rickett:** I didn't say

**Steve Pedro:** I got it Moe (laughter)

**Mr. Hickey:** Moe was a (inaudible) what, was it at city planning?

**Mr. Rickett:** Yeah, that's alright. I'm too old now

**Joe Pape:** I have a question

**Mr. Rickett:** Yes sir

**Joe Pape:** You say every time you get a project from the city, you get expenses, this and that but we agree to put it in the park. Did we not agree to put it in the park? So, if they would say we don't want it at Wampler Park, then who pays for it? You guys had to approve to put it at Wampler Park, correct?

**Mr. Hickey:** Yes

**Joe Pape:** What if you would say no, we don't want it at Wampler Park?

**Mr. Hickey:** I don't think that anybody would say that at this point and time

**Joe Pape:** But then you knew expenses were coming is what I am saying

**Mr. Hickey:** Oh yeah, yeah. What we are trying to do is figure out the least expensive way to getting the best system

**Joe Pape:** Yeah, I agree to that too but you have to think there are going to be more expenses

**Mr. Hickey:** Sure

**Joe Pape:** You can't just say no, if you don't want it there

**Mr. Hickey:** I probably wouldn't do that. I want this thing to go through. I think it would be a good thing for the city. I'm speaking for myself. I'm not speaking for the board.

**Joe Pape:** I don't think it's a good thing for the city in a park then you get all this woe back

**Mr. Hickey:** Well, the woe back is we have no say

**Joe Pape:** You can say, no, we don't want it there. They could put it there anyways then it would be a matter of who takes care of it

**Mr. Hickey:** I don't think there would be any matter, we would be taking care of it. We haven't won one battle yet on that end

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** I will say I think the work Steve did, his estimated cost is a little on the high side especially with the utilities going up. The number that came up is probably the best you are going to get at this point

**Mr. Hickey:** I don't think anybody is upset about it going into Wampler Park. I think what I'm kind of upset about is you're at your third reading and this was passed a year ago?

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** We are having these discussions and I was saying you guys are the ones who should be having these discussions and deciding and making sure like there is a shower before you enter, that somebody should be looking at it before the plans are done. You guys should have a second set of eyes...whatever you guys want to do I am good but

**Mr. Hickey:** It sounds like they were going to just pick whatever and say here it is fellas and you're done

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** That's how I explained it

**Mr. Hickey:** Yeah, that's what I'm saying. I'm not against it, I'm just saying

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** And maybe there is some way we can (inaudible).

You can 3 and 4 people, that would be a 7-person vote. You guys need to vote too with them. I don't know, I don't know. All I know is that we have it on hold now. You guys tell us what you want and we will proceed. And we want the splash pad too but we haven't seen the September 7<sup>th</sup> preliminary design and all the questions. It doesn't even matter that the questions were asked because it doesn't even come back to council. Once we vote, we are not in any part of any decision after that and you guys weren't either other than Steve working with them but it's not legally on paper and my problem is, I felt, that you guys should have (inaudible). Whatever you guys want me to do, I will do but I need you to speak up or else it will just be the way it is.

**Mr. Hickey:** Well, I would like to get one answer. How did it start in parks and go to Community Development?

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** I don't know...what they thought was because it was the initial project but every legislation that has come forward through for this splash pad has come through the parks

and I presented it and then all of a sudden now we are up for the bid and this and it's not through the parks anymore, it's through the Safety Service Director and the Board of Control. Then Ed's rationale is that he thought was because the municipal project that the same thing happened at the Duncan Plaza. They were the ones that did the bids

**Mr. Hickey:** Time out here. Timeout. That's not true. We voted to make Barb Sylvester be the point person

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** So, you guys didn't take a vote or anything?

**Mr. Hickey:** We didn't take a vote here on that at all on Wampler Park. They voted, it was a 3-2 vote. I did not vote for Barb Sylvester to be the front person.

**Mr. Rickett:** Mark and I voted no but it was a 3-2 vote

**Mr. Hickey:** That's why I don't understand how, without a vote, it got to being on a Community Development side from the Park Board, Recreation Board, I'm sorry

**Mr. Wood:** This should go back to, in my opinion, based on all this I heard here today, this is out of control. How can you move forward with all of the things that were said here today on this project? I never heard so much (inaudible).

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** You're not going to get a bid until you actually have your drawings and this and that so we are ready for the next step but the problem is

**Mr. Wood:** I don't think we are ready for the next step, in my opinion based on what I heard here today and I wasn't even involved in the initial conversation and discussion about the splash pad

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** That's why I think to finally get it here...there has been so many what ifs back and forth and we don't really know what the plan is so that's why when they get the final bid, I just felt that you guys should have the input in the decision and that's where I stand

**Mr. Wood:** There is a lot that should be put in the decision but at the starting point so the impact is real. They ask us that now but I mean it's almost done

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** Well, they've been working on it and they presented things and it's been months. They presented it...this is what we want to do so we'll make this beautiful design. Originally, they (inaudible).

**Mr. Hickey:** Why didn't she bring that to the board to present?

**Steve Pedro:** That's when Maley brought it, didn't he?

**Mr. Rickett:** Yes, but not

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** All Dave Maley said was we don't want it at Sippo because

**Mr. Rickett:** Exactly, that was just a vote

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** Then we switched it to move forward and they were still trying to (inaudible). And they have worked hard, they have, the mayor's administration, through the grants and everything. The money we are using, maybe that might have could been used for something else, but anyhow, we've got between grants and the donations, we've got 1.1 million that they've put together. I know because this is their thing and they want to do it but it is still...we are at the point where we need to keep moving forward

**Mr. Hickey:** Correct

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** The question is do you guys get the decision in the final say

**Mr. Hickey:** I don't think we will, in my opinion

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** If you guys want the decision in the final say, we can probably write it up some way because right now, you're really not legally included in the final say

**Mr. Hickey:** No, I can tell

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** and that was the issue, so that's why we need your input. I don't know

**Steve Pedro:** Monday we'll make that known that we want to be a part of the final decision

**Mr. Schartiger:** Well I personally think it is an insult to ask for our input at this point and time

**Mr. Wood:** That is the point that is most valid is the sustainability of this thing. After it is done, the city is going to contribute to the cost?

**Julie Harwig-Smith:** Absolutely not

**Mr. Wood:** I hate to say it, but that's dumb. I mean that's not very smart that city didn't approve that for being involved in it

**Mr. Rickett:** We are going to table this, right?

**Steve Pedro:** Moe, there's nothing to vote on. We are going to city council on Monday.

**Mr. Rickett:** Is there any other business we need to discuss now?

**Steve Pedro:** Board reports

## **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**

**23-103** *Mr. Hickey moved; seconded by Mr. Schartiger to adjourn the Recreation Board Meeting. Motion carried 4-0 by roll call vote.*

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:13 pm. The next scheduled regular meeting will be on Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 5:00 pm at the Massillon Recreation Center.

**Transcribed By:** Carol Leonard, Office Manager