

REGULAR PARK BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, January 8, 2025 @ 5:30 pm
MGC ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD ROOM
201 WEST WATER STREET, PIQUA, OHIO 45356

The City of Piqua Park Board met at 5:30PM, in the Municipal Government Complex Administrative Board Room located at 201 W. Water Street.

Roll Call as follows: Board Members Present: Natalie Young, Cathy Oda, Terry Wright, Cindy Pearson, Marcia Garrett
Staff Present: Amy Welker, Bob Graeser

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Natalie Young called the meeting to order at 5:35PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Marica Garrett made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the November 20, 2024 Park Board Meeting; motion was seconded by Cathy Oda. Motion carried unanimously; Meeting Minutes approved.

OLD BUISNESS

Annual Report - Natalie Young gave a brief description of the main headings of the Draft Annual Report, which was presented at the November meeting and provided via email to board members, and asked if anyone had any additions or comments they would like included in the report before voting on individual park recommendations, to be included in the report, during New Business. No additions or comments were made. Natalie stated that the board would receive a revised copy of the Annual Report via email, after the meeting, and each board member would be required to respond to affirm receipt and respond with their approval.

NEW BUSINESS

Voting – Park Board Members were each given colored dots to vote on

Results were as follows:

Das Park:

- More Trees
- More Benches

Shawnee Park:

- Landscaping along front entrance/fence line/More Inviting
- Picnic Table/Additional Seating
- Updated Trees/Shade/Seating

Roadside:

- Larger Dog Agility Area
- Area for Frisbee/Ball Throwing
- Update the Shelter

Heritage Green:

- Park Signage needs updated
- Brick pavers in memorial and entryways need powerwashed and weeded
- Trees need maintenance/trimming

Goodrich Giles:

- Port-a-john with screen
- Additional picnic tables
- Update/Formalize Boat Entry ramp

French:

- Additional benches
- Additional picnic tables
- Seating to accommodate gathering

Hollow:

- Parking lot maintenance; address potholes
- Update the playground equipment
- Update “old” shelter

Kiwanis:

- Playground equipment is faded and spiderweb is rusty
- More seating in shaded areas, or picnic tables
- Utilized by a lot of pre-teens & junior high age kids – focus improvements geared toward that age group: unique seating, large balancing shapes/double as seating, “big-kid” swings/gliders, lawn games, backdrop walls, encourage this age group gathering and utilization, expand on how they use the park

Fountain:

- Update Volleyball Court
- Update Basketball Court/Backboards
- Walking Path by Basketball Court needs repaired
- Fencing along Forrest Ave needs replaced in sections, maintained in others
- Natural Play area at top of Fountain

Mote:

- New Playground Equipment

- Update Basketball Court/Court Condition
- Upper Parking Lot

RM Davis:

- Replace or maintenance – picnic table
- Weeding in Memorial
- Update Playground Equipment

Pitsenbarger:

- Replace Tennis Courts
- More Trees
- Additional benches around playground
- Splash Pad

Veterans:

- Updated Signage
- Military Flags
- Irrigation

After voting results were complete, Natalie stated that these results would be incorporated into the report and presented to the Commission at their regular January 21, 2025 meeting and that the Park Board's next meeting would be March 5, 2025.

Marcia suggested that the voting boards be left on display for the Commission Meeting to serve as a visual, discussion ensued, and it was decided that was a great idea and they would be left up.

Other Items – A discussion about the Boards' intentions for 2025 were discussed, and the sentiment was that continuing to observe parks should continue. Lock 9 was selected to be observed by the meeting. Amy Welker spoke in regards to plans for 2025. She indicated that Tyler Barlage, the new Recreation Coordinator who is in charge of programming in the parks, would be coming to an upcoming park board meeting and that he's been out meeting with community groups and actively getting started in his new role. The Park Board looks forward to meeting him.

STAFF REPORT

Bob Graeser provided a Tree Committee Update and presented about the 2024 Tree City USA designation and its requirements being met such as expenditures, hazardous tree removal, tree trimming and tree planting. He stated that Piqua has received this designation for 27 years. He stated that the downtown invasive tree removal program will continue. Bradford Pear Trees will be replaced by new species, varied block by block, which will eliminate monocultures which have a number of potential drawbacks. He also stated that another Arbor Day Celebration at Piqua Central School at the end of April 2025 is in the works.

Amy Welker provided the staff report. A list of the big projects in the 2025 budget are as follows:

- Tennis &/or Pickleball courts at Pitsenbarger will be improved and possibly redesigned and that Bob Greaser will be the project manager and is working with Chris Boeke and Tyler Barlage on the project. They plan to involve the Miami County Pickleball Association for ideas, suggestions and/or design.
- Priority Focus of the Park Department will continue to be on Maintenance
- Paving/Resurfacing sections of the bike path
- Parking Lot Improvements

Amy also stated that the City intends to hold some public meetings in 2025 related to Parks such as a meeting to assess potential uses of Mote Park (depending on the Power Project/Piqua Compassion Network) and to discuss report findings on the potential Fountain Park canal expansion as it relates to Fountain Park, the Cemetery and Hance Pavillion.

Natalie inquired about a Pollinator Plot in 2025. Amy stated that Chris Boeke has been investigating starting that type of project and there was discussion about getting formal recommendations for a proper location. The Board agreed that waiting for formal location recommendations this spring and summer would be welcomed and then agreed to remove that action item from their Goodrich Giles voting results and would instead include that as an overall recommendation, along with the other top projects that were voted on earlier in the year. (find date?)

BOARD COMMENTS

Cindy Pearson stated that she was very happy with the Boards progress this year and that our work has resulted in identifying multiple action items across different parks and encouraged the Board to keep it up. She also commended the City Parks Staff should be commended for all of their hard work and dedication in keeping the parks in good condition this year.

Natalie inquired if the city has further discussed opening Mote Park for nighttime frisbee golf play, which was presented and suggested by Ben Zimmerman at the last meeting. Amy stated that the city continues to be wary of vandalism at night and the police department continues to place a priority on monitoring the parks at night but that the city will continue to discuss it.

ADJOURNMENT

Cindy Pearson moved for adjournment of the meeting; the motion was seconded by Cathy Oda. The motion carried unanimously. The Park Board Meeting adjourned at 6:56pm.