

**MINUTES
PIQUA CITY COMMISSION
Wednesday, October 18, 2017
6:00 P.M.**

Piqua City Commission, Planning Commission, and Park Board met at 6:00 P.M. in a Combined Work session in the Municipal Government Complex Commission Chambers located at 201 W. Water Street. Mayor Hinds called the meeting to order. Also present were Commissioners Terry, Martin, Wilson, and Vogt. Planning Commission members: Mr. Koenig, Mr. Spoltman, Mrs. Pearson, and Park Board Members: Mr. Harvey, Mr. Shoemaker, Mr. Fraizer, Mrs. Stiefel, and Mr. Cruse.

PRESENTATION OF DRAFT PARKS MASTER PLAN

Presenter- Pros Consulting.

City Planner Chris Schmiesing provided a brief over stating this referenced the 2007 Comprehensive Plan concerning community facilities and parks on how to sustain and improve these areas.

Presenter: PROS Consultant President Leon Younger

Mr. Younger provided information on the Parks Master Plan, noting the community input and the variety of suggestions for improvement from critical to visionary projects that could possibly take place over the next decade.

There was a large effort to engage as many people as possible. Eighteen community engagement sessions were held, which included stakeholder meetings with representatives from the YMCA, Piqua City Schools, Piqua Improvement Corporation, local residents, students, and youth sports clubs. By including as many opinions from the community when or if city officials pursue any of the ideas within the Parks Master Plan, they will know that the ideas have been suggested by the community, stated City Planner Chris Schmiesing.

The total area of all of the parks in the city is 403.5 acres, with approximately 19.3 acres per every 1,000 residents. Many of the suggestions included investing and maintaining the existing buildings and parks. The average area for a city the size of Piqua is to have between 10-15 acres per 1,000 residents. There is not really a great need in terms for new facilities at this time, stated Mr. Younger.

Walking and biking trails, creating a nature center and trails were noted as two types of parks and recreation facilities most important to residents. An off-leash dog park and swimming pool/water park were noted third and fourth on the list. Pitsenbarger Park & Sports Complex was discussed for future enhancement. The existing site is 67 acres and contains the baseball, softball, little league fields, soccer and football fields, along with tennis courts, the community swimming pool, a skate park, picnic facilities and playground equipment. All of these areas were noted as needing repairs and updates to improve design standards. The cost of these improvements was listed at \$270,000. Adding a Nature Center was also noted as part of the visionary plan.

Strategic recommendations included enhancing the trail system by adding or updating two miles of the trail each year, and utilizing the city's access to the riverfront creating more outdoor adventure experiences. Programming for adult wellness and fitness was also noted to be included in the future plans.

Commissioner Terry asked how the city should move forward with the Parks Master Plan.

Mr. Younger suggested the city should pick one or two suggested projects to do each year. It requires an effort, and an opportunity to go out for a funding source for the projects, as not as much money would be needed at one time. At this time the city does not have a dedicated funding source for parks, like a levy. Mr. Younger encouraged the city to consider looking at creating a dedicated fund source for the future.

Several of the combined board members asked questions about various aspects of the plan, and how the projects would be implemented, and when. Mr. Younger and Mr. Schmiesing answered all of their questions. It was mentioned that 57% of the population in the city is 55 and older, and this should be considered when making future plans.

The consensus of the combined boards seemed to be to maintain the current facilities and parks, and look to the future for additional funding if possible to move forward with future projects.

Mayor Hinds thanked Mr. Younger for his very informative presentation. It gives us a lot to think about when looking forward to future projects.

Motion was made by Commissioner Vogt to adjourn the Regular Commission Meeting at 8:45 P.M., seconded by Commissioner Martin, motion was carried unanimously.

KATHRYN B. HINDS, MAYOR

PASSED: _____

ATTEST: _____
REBECCA J. COOL
CLERK OF COMMISSION