

**REGULAR PARK BOARD MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2022, 6:00 PM  
COMMISSION CHAMBERS–2<sup>nd</sup> FLOOR  
201 WEST WATER STREET, PIQUA, OHIO 45356**

City of Piqua Park Board met at 6:00 P.M. in the Municipal Government Complex Commission Chambers located at 201 W. Water Street.

Roll Call as follows: Board Members Present: Eric White, Natalie Young, Catherine Oda, Eddie Harvey, Marcia Garrett, Nolan Campbell (via Zoom) and Phillip Moyer. Board Members Absent: Billie Jo Simmons. City Commission Representative Present: Cindy Pearson. Staff Present: Amy Welker and Melissa Kinney.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Approval of the Minutes from the June 1, 2022, Regular Park Board Meeting**

Catherine Oda moved for approval of the Meeting Minutes; motion was seconded by Cindy Pearson. Motion carried unanimously; Meeting Minutes approved.

**THE POWER PROJECT PRESENTATION**

The Power Project was presented to the Park Board by Chloe Clark, Caleb Patton and Rebecca Sousek. A video was shown to explain what the Power Project is and what it will encompass. The mission of this program is to create a safe, inviting place for youth and will provide basic needs, resources, fitness and education to empower young people. A breakdown of the budget was provided, along with plans to restore the Mote Park Community Center, future expansions of the program, and how the Power Project will work in conjunction with other community programs. Director Rebecca Sousek of the Piqua Compassion Network spoke of their commitment to renovate the building at Mote Park, revitalizing it as it once used to be in years past. This project is being modeled after the successful Lincoln Center in Troy. Michelle Perry of the Piqua Community Foundation spoke of the dedication of the people behind the Power Project, which won a \$50,000 Grant recently for "Pitch Piqua" and had over 142 donors voting for it in this competition. Owner of the Southtown Sports & Recreation Center Chad Lawson explained his role of support in this program. Michelle Mitchell talked of the Piqua City Schools support of the Power Project as well.

**MOTE PARK LEASE**

Amy Welker provided an overview of the current Mote Park Community Center's status as a rental space. It is under-utilized and in deteriorating condition, needing many upgrades and investments. Amy also went over some of the proposed terms of the lease with the Power Project, noting that the City Commission will approve or disapprove the final lease in the future. She asked that the Park Board consider what is the best and highest use for this building. The Power Project is an opportunity for a Public/Private partnership, along with an investment in the community.

A discussion of the rent for the building culminated with Natalie Young asking that the rent be reviewed in any future renewals of the lease. Amy confirmed that all terms of the lease would be reviewed. Amy also explained that the City will be instituting a cost recovery policy that will guide future fees, rents, rates, etc. The Park Board will be reviewing the policy at a future meeting.

Eddie Harvey moved to recommend the City Commission approve the lease of Mote Park Community Center to the Power Project, seconded by Catherine Oda. The board voted unanimously to make the recommendation.

**CHAPTER 94 DRAFT**

Amy Welker handed out a draft copy of Piqua Code Chapter 94 to all board members with all revisions proposed and asked for any other suggestions and recommendations. Eddie Harvey brought up the DORA District exception for Parks in regards to alcohol in Code 94.23 & 94.26. Phillip Moyer recommended adding a provision to Code 94.24 in regards to non-biodegradable items not being permitted in the parks.

Catherine Oda moved to approve all proposed modifications to Piqua Code Chapter 94 and recommend adoption of the amended code by the Piqua City Commission, seconded by Phillip Moyer. Motion carried unanimously.

**PROJECT STATUS LIST**

Amy Welker went over several projects that are underway, as we are waiting on contractors to complete the work. The walking path at Pitsenbarger Park is scheduled for repairs beginning in September 2022. Natalie Young suggested that a "Drop Off Zone" be created at Pitsenbarger Park for parents dropping off their children for sports practices. She and Eddie Harvey both said that the congested parking lots there need repaved and relined. Eddie Harvey also suggested adding another drive for cars to access McKinley Avenue from Pitsenbarger to help with congestion. He also suggested QR scanners at the parks instead of signage. Phillip Moyer recommended that a crosswalk be added on Riverside Drive near Rivers Edge. Natalie Young's suggestion was to add the blue light phones on the bike path for added security and to deter criminal activity.

### **SUMMER & FALL WORK PLANS**

Amy Welker discussed the Parks Annual Work Plan for Fall 2022, along with the Summer Work Plan showing what is completed, pending and deferred. Amy is pleased with all that was accomplished this Summer by the Parks crew, and she now has some data to start to tell the story of where and how monies and time are spent in Piqua Parks.

### **BUDGET (CHANGES, HIGHLIGHTS)**

Amy Welker discussed changes and highlights to the proposed 2023 Parks Budget. She will be including the addition of a 5<sup>th</sup> full-time staff member and utilizing 6 seasonal staff workers for the busy summer months. She will continue to focus on maintenance projects, as that is what is needed most in the current situation. The budget will go to City Commission for approval in November and December.

### **STAFF CHANGES**

Finally, Amy Welker made the board aware of recent staff changes. Tyler Thompson transferred to the Power Dept. recently, and Cortland Martin will be filling that position from the Sanitation Dept. in a few weeks.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Phillip Moyer suggested that the Park Board meet more frequently, as there is a lot of information to cover in quarterly meetings. The board agreed to meet next in November instead of in December as previously scheduled. He also feels that the monthly Park Inspections are too frequent. Natalie Young agreed and suggested that the Park Inspection Form be modified and made more specific to each park. Amy concurred and said that we will pause for now on park inspections.

Phillip Moyer also recommended that the board discuss the hydraulic canal issue at the next meeting. He and Catherine Oda will attend the first public meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, and will report back to the board on this issue.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Nolan Campbell asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Phillip Moyer moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Eric White. The Regular Park Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.