

**PARKS BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 20, 2023  
6:30 PM**

Nina Schroeder called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Don Buchert, Marty Hura, Nina Schroeder, Cookie Vanek

**Absent:** Chuck Peterson

**Other Village Personnel Present:** Council President Tammy Meyer, Councilman Steve Thorn

**Citizens/Others Present:** Downtown Mantua Revitalization Corporation Liaison Phil Rath, Dakota VanOss

- ❖ Motion to approve August 16, 2023 minutes made by Don and seconded by Marty; all ayes.

**Old Business:**

- Phase 4 work is complete.
- Phase 5 awaits a grant application response from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.
- Improvements to bench seating at the south softball field are still underway.
- Village Administrator Ryan Klemm provided conceptual renderings and a quote for a structure with four individual bathrooms, costing approximately \$65,000.
  - The board requests from Ryan exact renderings with detailed specifications, and Phil will relay this request to Ryan.
  - Discussion included the structure's appearance (painting, landscaping); designating one stall for families, one for ADA accessibility, and two for general use; researching grant opportunities and raising money to supplement the DMRC's contributions; the mobility and winterization of the structure; and the possibility of solar-powered energy.
  - The board formally designated the construction of restrooms as "Phase 6."
  - Before sending this project before council, Phil will seek approval/encumbrance of funds from the DMRC and report back to the board.
- In preparation for the upcoming capital planning meeting and forecasting future phases, the board revisited recurring ideas and past proposals, brainstormed new ideas (e.g., utilizing the north side of the park more effectively by centering a soccer field or peewee football field where the two baseball outfields currently adjoin), and prioritized the following ideas:
  - adding new parking/bettering current parking;
  - implementing league play/facilitating organized sports (e.g., softball, baseball, basketball, volleyball, pickleball, soccer) and providing concessions;

- making the park more attractive and inviting;
- updating the playground;
- increasing safe river access;
- updating the lodge.

**New Business:**

- Dakota proposed constructing a second sand court and starting a volleyball league.
  - Dakota explained that he and 12-16 people have been playing at Buchert Park for about two years, meeting at least once a week and on occasional weekends, too. With enough people to comprise three teams, one team must sit while the other two play. With a second court, Dakota could arrange to have 30 players there at a time. Dakota cited a growing demand for league play, and he speculated that a second court and an established league would ensure the courts are used regularly.
    - When Dakota noted that lighting and water access would also be useful for gameplay, the board discussed the park's current hours (dawn to dusk) and considered amending park hours to allow nighttime league play.
    - Regarding whether there is enough space to accommodate a second court, the board discussed the rehabilitation of Katie's Meadow and another idea of Ryan's (i.e., constructing a long, singular structure or pavilion that could accommodate a farmer's market, Art in the Park, and other community events).
    - Dakota said that he and his teammates would volunteer time/labor toward the construction of a second court.
  - The board agreed that Dakota's idea warranted discussion at the upcoming capital planning meeting.
  
- Phil shared that DMRC President Edie Benner is working to set up a meeting with State Representative Gail Pavliga to discuss parks funding and potential grant opportunities.
  
- The Rotary Club was awarded a grant and is donating a swinging bench to the village. The board suggested placing it in the shade by the playground.
  
- Tammy shared that the Potato Festival was successful and drew a steady crowd.
  - One complaint/safety concern was the unevenness of the ground; she reported that the Service Department is already aware and working to level the ground and improve the drainage of the space.
  
- ❖ Motion to adjourn at 7:10 p.m. made by Nina and seconded by Marty; all ayes.