



City Clerk
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HEALTH AND RECREATION COMMITTEE May 12, 2023

The Health and Recreation Committee of Wheeling City Council met on the above date at 4:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Committee members present: Chair Ketchum and Vice Chair Thalman, Others present: City Manager Robert Herron, Parks and Recreation Director Rochelle Barry, City Clerk Jessica Zalenski and Mayor Elliott. Absent: Member Seidler

The following matters were discussed:

General Playground updates:

Ms. Ketchum asked City Manager Mr. Herron roughly how much money is still left in ARPA funding. Mr. Herron stated that number is around 4 million. Mr. Thalman asked for an update on splash pad progress at Garden Park and Heritage Port. Mr. Herron stated that the projects are ready to go out for bid now and that CT consultants has done the engineering and planning. Ms. Barry requested for construction to not begin on those until after the summer season to not interfere with summer activities and events. Mr. Herron stated work would not begin until the fall. Mr. Thalman requested that splash pad funding be on next council agenda. Ms. Barry also stated that swings are the number one request from residents for playgrounds.

Pulaski and 36th street playground:

Ms. Ketchum requested updates for Elm Terrace, Clator and Pulaski Playground redesigns, Mr. Herron stated that the ordinance for funding the projects is set to hit council agenda on May 16th.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan:

Ms. Ketchum asked Ms. Barry for an update on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Ms. Barry stated to have the plan created is \$20,000 and that a proposal for a comprehensive plan with a proposed budget of \$125,000. Ms. Ketchum asked Mr. Herron if there is CBDG eligibility for grants, he confirmed there may be. Mayor Elliott requested bike trails be implemented into the comprehensive plan and existing bike lanes be re-designated. Zoning codes and land usage needs to be part of the planning process, recommendation for Urban Design Ventures as a consultant for the project. Ms. Barry requested for an extensive meeting after a year of gathering data of trends, surveys and community meetings.

Mr. Thalman asked about turning existing courts and spaces to Pickleball courts since the game has become very popular.

Parks and Recreation Commission:

Ms. Ketchum requested applications and resumes be submitted for Recreation Commission to be appointed by Mayor Elliott as soon as possible to get that commission up and running as a resource to the Parks and Recreation department. Ms. Zalenski confirmed she will partner with Michele Rejonis in Marketing and Communications to get media around accepting resumes for the commission.

Beautification fund:

Ms. Ketchum stated that herself and Member Seidler have been wanting to implement a beautification fund to support art, cleanliness, flowers etc. to improve look and feel of the city. Mr. Herron stated finding the funding source would not be a problem but that it is expensive to keep the upkeep requiring a greater work load for our operations department. A discussion ensued over utilizing different local groups and organizations to help with beautification projects such as Russell Nesbitt and Volunteer Wheeling. Mr. Thalman asked Mr. Herron what kind of cleanup and updating we can do in regards to Department of Highway property overpasses, bridges and



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debris on interstate, Mr. Herron said district engineer Tony Clark would be a great resource to ask. Ms. Barry stated a request for funding for themed painted basketball courts throughout the city, total cost would be \$18,000 budgeting \$3,000 per court cost. Mr. Thalman asked if Ms. Barry could choose the 3 courts that would benefit most from these updates.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Ms. Ketchum motioned, seconded by Mr. Thalman to adjourn at 4:34pm