

MIDDLETOWN RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

The Middletown Recreation Commission held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, December 15, 2017 at 7:33 p.m. in the Recreation & Parks Department office.

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Dave Bechtle, Vice-Chairwoman Shawna Strenfel, Wayne Hawkins, Daniel Higbie, Michael Torres, Alderman Jerry Kleiner, Alderman Tom Burr and Supt. Chris Brinckerhoff. Absent: TroiChanel Johnson, Rollin Lybolt

GUESTS: Barbara Bonham, Shade Tree Committee Chairwoman

CORRESPONDENCE: From Jerry Bergman, thanking the department for their assistance with the mobile stage for the 2017 Stewart Military Appreciation Day Picnic held at Stewart Airport.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: The minutes of the October 11, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved on a MOTION by Wayne Hawkins; seconded by Dan Higbie. There was no meeting in November due to illness of Superintendent Brinckerhoff and lack of a quorum.

AUDIT: October revenues equaled \$9,598.00 and November revenues equaled \$13,417.00, totaling \$23,015.00. A \$500.00 donation for the Disc Golf Course was donated by Green Collar Contracting, Inc. Reimbursements were received from Orange County Solutions Funding for the Teen Center and our Summer Programs totaling \$25,229.87.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Personnel – Nothing new to report. Part-timers are working in our After School and Teen Center Programs. Hiring has begun for our winter programs beginning in January.

Activities - All Holiday special events have been a success. Tree Lighting Parade was the biggest yet with thousands of spectators. The first year of Cookies and Cops proved to be a big success. Thank you to the Middletown Police Department for their positive involvement with our youth and families. The Department will be running a Winter Break Program for grades K – 8th from Dec. 26th – Dec. 29th. Hours are 8:00am – 5:00pm. Registration is currently running for all winter programs starting in January. (Basketball, Cheerleading, Indoor Soccer and Volleyball) Shawna mentioned she received very positive feedback from the Skateboard Clinics this fall. Instructor Burton Smith and his staff did a great job!

Maintenance – The main part of the new playground equipment at Maple Hill Park has been installed. Swings will be completed in the spring after the completion of the water project that will go underground through the park. The Academy Ave. Building has had repairs done to the roof and new carpet has been installed in the 1st floor entrance hallway. Vinyl planking will be installed in the pre-school room during winter break. The maintenance garage will have an overhead garage door replaced. The men were busy this fall with leave removal, maintenance of athletic fields and working on the Disc Golf Course. The department has moved four vehicles to surplus. (2002 Dodge Van, 2 Ford Crown Vics, and 1999 Chevy Malibu) Shawn continues to build a train that will be placed at the City entrance on the corner of Ct. Rt. 78 and West Main St. The men this winter will begin planning and prepping for a 911 playground using donated emergency vehicles.

Concerns were brought up by commission members of the water spigot leaking in dog park, work on maple hill pool going into the winter season and millings around trees by the pool at Fancher Davidge

Park. Superintendent Brinckerhoff will check with the Working Supervisor Bianchi and report back at the January Meeting about the concerns.

RECREATION & PARKS COMMITTEE: Chairman Burr reported that the City has received the funding for the water project at Maple Hill Park and along West Main St. City will be starting the bidding process for project. He thanked the department for their part in the parade and tree lighting event and all the residents and businesses that donated time and services to make it possible.

OLD BUSINESS: The Parks Department is working on the last three holes of the 9 hole Disc Golf Course. New facility permits have been completed for 2018 with a security deposit added to them. The After School Sports Academy is running smoothly. There are still openings available in the program. City Officials were very supportive of our 2018 operating budget. Maple Hill Pool resurfacing and new lining project is almost complete. It has taken longer than expected due to the concrete being more deteriorated than expected. It was mentioned that the geese returned once the Geese Police contract ended. We will be looking to expand services on geese population in 2018.

NEW BUSINESS: The Parks Department has groomed a sleigh riding hill at Maple Hill Park this winter. Brush has been removed and hay bales will be placed to outline the sleighing area. Solutions Funding for 2018 has been approved by Orange County Youth Bureau. The Recreation Dept. will be receiving \$49,582.00 to go toward staffing of Teen Center, Summer Feeding Program, Summer Leadership Academy and Boxing. The Police Dept. will receive another \$5,000 to implement in schools Too Good for Violence, Too Good for Drugs. Little League and the Parks Department will be working together to make improvements to Watt Memorial Park in 2018. City will be repairing and painting dugouts and purchasing some new bleachers. Little League will add a Middletown Little League logo to back of two dugouts facing the street, receiving donations to put safety padding around inside of backstops and purchasing a new type of infield mix for Lybolt Field to see if it makes a positive difference in playing surface.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Superintendent Brinckerhoff has been asked by School Board President, John Perrino, to sit on a focus board to select a new superintendent of schools. Alderman Tom Burr was also asked. Wayne complimented the millings placed on the back trails of Fancher Davidge Park and the success of the Turkey Trot, thanking the police and high school track team for their involvement. Youth member, Michael Torres, mentioned his appointment will be up in January and expressed interest in serving on the commission again in 2018. Michael has been a wonderful addition to the Recreation Commission and represents the City of Middletown well on a county and state level.

There will be a Holiday Luncheon on Friday, December 22nd at Noon in the Recreation Office. Commission members are welcome to join us.

ADJOURNMENT: The December meeting was adjourned at 8:45p.m. on a MOTION by Shawna Strenfel and seconded by Wayne Hawkins

NEXT MEETING: The January meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Recreation & Parks Department office.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Brinckerhoff, Superintendent