

MIDDLETOWN RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

The Middletown Recreation Commission held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the Recreation & Parks Department office.

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

Absent: No one

GUESTS: Barbara Bonham & Mary Ellen O'Neil, Shade Tree Committee Members
Carol Lybolt

Barbara and Mary Ellen shared photos that someone is pruning the Cherry Blossoms Trees at Academy Ave. Park before residents can enjoy the blossoms. They believe the blossoms are being sold. They inquired about the work at the Dog Park and that they would like trees planted by the end of April and no later than the 1st week in May. They informed the commission that Middletown has been a Tree City for ten years. They will be receiving Hybrid Oak trees from Cornell University to be planted around the City

CORRESPONDENCE: None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: The minutes of the March 14, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved on a MOTION by Rollin Lybolt; seconded by Dave Bechtle

AUDIT: March program revenues were \$22,677.50. Bringing yearly revenue total to \$63,437.50

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Personnel – Spring Seasonal Staff is being hired for Soccer, Cheerleading, Kids Marathon and Spring Break Program. A seasonal laborer in the Parks Department started on April 1st. Other labors will be hired for Parks in May.

Activities – Kids Marathon has a little over 40 kids enrolled. They run a mile and a half every Monday and Wednesday evening at the high school track. Their final mile will be run at the Kids Classic on 10K weekend. The Annual Egg Hunt will be April 20th in the back at Davidge Park starting at 10:00am for ages 5 and under and 11:00am for ages 6 to 10. Healy Brothers Mitsubishi will be a co-sponsor and four and a half cases of chocolate Lion's Club rabbits have been donated to the hunt. The Recreation Department has helped plan the City Pride Clean Up on April 27th. Spring Break Program will run at Middletown High School April 15th thru the 19th. Spring Soccer and Cheerleading will begin on Saturday, May 4th at Watts Park. Little League opening day had beautiful weather.

Maintenance – Parks Department Staff is busy getting parks and fields ready for use. Pavilion reservations have begun soccer and ball fields are all in use. The many Park improvement projects will be mentioned in Old business of the minutes.

RECREATION & PARKS COMMITTEE: Alderman Burr reported that progress is being made with the Heritage Trail. Alderman Kleiner reported there will be a trail meeting on April 25th at 11:00am upstairs in the Thrall Library. Alderman Kleiner stated there are still obstacles in moving forward with the Trail coming into Middletown.

OLD BUSINESS: Online registration has been challenging. The software is confusing when setting up your account. Once account is set up the site is user friendly and easy. We are working with the software company to make the set-up easier for the public. We are working through the hiccups, but overall the software is beneficial to our department and our residents.

Maintenance Staff will be starting on the drainage issue next week in the Dog Park and getting a walkway and trees planted in the Dog Park. The new parking lot by War Memorial Pool is almost complete. Tree stumps have been grinded and large rocks will be placed around the edges of the lot. Playground installation at Maple Hill, Bennett Hill, Sproat St. and Jerome Neil is in progress. There will be new swings in Beattie Hill as well. The Department is installing mini- single shelters in neighborhood parks. The Disc Golf Course signs will be going in before the May 4th ribbon cutting. Watts Park is ready for Little League Games. A new MVP infield conditioner has been put on all the fields. Ketcham Fencing is putting in bullpens on Lybolt and Stevens Fields making it safer for participants. Batting cages and safety netting is being replaced and improved. Davidge Park Expansion is moving closer to going out to bid.

Sports Camp will be located at the Twin Towers Middle School this summer due to construction at Monhagen Middle School.

NEW BUSINESS: The Mayor has signed contracts for 2019 Solutions Funding with the Orange County Youth Bureau. The City will be receiving \$48,000 in positive youth development funding for youth programs. Dave Bechtle was reappointed to the Recreation Commission by the Mayor to another 5 year term ending in 2024. The department this summer may get a 14 week college intern from SUNY Cortland. Our department can offer a beneficial education experience and the intern will be able to assist us during our busy season.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Disc Golf Ribbon Cutting on Saturday, May 4th at 10:00am. Shawna announced that 4 little league fields were named in appreciation of service to Jim Christiano, Norm Brunning, (both past little league presidents) and John Bianchi and Chris Brinckerhoff for years of service to the parks department.

WELCOME BACK ROLLIN

ADJOURNMENT: The April meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. on a MOTION by Rollin Lybolt and seconded by Daniel Higbie.

NEXT MEETING: The April meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 8, 2019** at 7:30 p.m. in the Recreation & Parks Department office.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Brinckerhoff, Superintendent