



**REGULAR PARK BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2024 @ 5:30 PM
MGC COMMISSION CHAMBERS
201 WEST WATER STREET, PIQUA, OHIO 45356**

The City of Piqua Park Board met at 5:30 P.M. in the Municipal Government Complex Commission Chambers located at 201 W. Water Street.

Roll Call as follows: Board Members Present: Eddie Harvey, Marcia Garrett, Natalie Young, Cathy Oda, Juli Smith, and Terry Wright. City Commission Representative Present: Kris Lee. Staff Present: Amy Welker, Bob Graeser and Melissa Kinney.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Natalie Young called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Marcia Garrett moved for approval of the Meeting Minutes from the November 29, 2023, Park Board Meeting; motion was seconded by Eddie Harvey. Motion carried unanimously; Meeting Minutes approved.

TREE COMMITTEE (DUTIES)

Bob Graeser introduced himself as the City's Arborist who previously conducted the meetings of the Tree Committee. He explained that the City of Piqua has qualified for the distinction of Tree City USA for the past 15 years by meeting certain criteria. These criteria include performing an annual Arbor Day Celebration, spending \$2 per capita within provided guidelines to remove and plant trees, and holding 6 meetings per year with quorum.

CIP—RANKING PROCESS

Amy Welker handed out a list of potential Capital Improvement Projects for the parks. She asked that everyone review the list and gather any other ideas for projects that they would like included on this list. She discussed different methods that can be used by the board to rank the CIP list. She explained the process used by the City of Piqua and the 7 categories considered in its ranking criteria. Cathy Oda was in favor of keeping the ranking process simple by utilizing stickers for each board member to indicate his/her top 10 projects. Everyone agreed to do this at the next meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Amy Welker disbursed a list of Action Items of ongoing and completed Park Board recommendations. Terry Wright requested that a sign be added on the new Atomic City bridge to indicate how far to the next designated takeout area.

POLLINATOR PROGRAM

Bob Graeser talked about possible locations to begin the pollinator program in Piqua. He said that it will involve a lot of prep work, including tilling of the ground and killing the grass the year before. He also stated the importance of education of citizens prior to placement of these pollinator locations. Bob likes that this will be a savings for the city on mowing costs, and he is going to research more on this new program. Terry Wright said he is aware of a Toyota grant that opens in June and may be applicable to this program. Juli Smith will investigate this grant opportunity.

BOARD GOALS

Natalie Young stated her desire for the Park Board to focus on 5 topics in 2024 to fulfill the board's primary duty of reporting annually to the Commission. She asked for assistance in compiling information and getting a consensus for next year's annual report in January. Cindy Pearson commented that the board has a good start to 2024 with the CIP ranking list and needs to continue with input and recommendations for the parks. Mayor Lee announced that there is an opportunity in the works currently with the County Commission to obtain more funding for the Parks Department. He would also like to get the volunteer program up and running soon.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Larry Hamilton, owner of the Randolph & McCulloch Freedom's Struggle Complex, invited everyone to all events and activities occurring for Black History Month in Piqua. He also thanked Mayor Lee and his fraternity for their recent work at Goodrich Giles Park. Mr. Hamilton proposed that Rossville should be declared a county, state, federal and international park site as well.

STAFF REPORT

Amy Welker announced that the first meeting occurred this past week regarding programming at the new Lock 9 Park. She also announced that the new Public Information Officer Michelle Perry started this week, who Amy will be working with to improve the city's website goals and the Parks Department page. She briefly went over the Work Plan, the draft of the 2023 Annual Departmental Report, and an example of a sports lease agreement.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Natalie Young reported on the meeting she attended a few weeks ago regarding the Hance Pavilion. She announced that the next meeting will be February 15, 2024, at 7 pm at the YMCA Youth Center. Juli Smith shared that she is looking into a "Nature Works" grant that is now available to parks. Bob Graeser suggested reducing the number of parks in the city to focus more effort and resources.

ADJOURNMENT

Eddie Harvey moved for adjournment of the meeting; motion was seconded by Cathy Oda. Motion carried unanimously. The Park Board Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.