



**REGULAR PARK BOARD MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 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: Marcia Garrett, Pat Kleman, Cindy Pearson, Natalie Young, Cathy Oda, Zach Gordon, and Terry Wright. Staff Present: Amy Welker, Melissa Kinney, and Bob Graeser.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Natalie Young called the meeting to order at 5:33 P.M. The board welcomed the newest member Pat Kleman, and each member briefly introduced himself/herself to Pat.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Terry Wright made a motion to modify the Meeting Minutes from the February 28, 2024, Park Board Meeting; motion was seconded by Cathy Oda. Motion carried unanimously; Meeting Minutes amended.

Cindy Pearson moved for approval of the amended Meeting Minutes from the February 28, 2024, Park Board Meeting; motion was seconded by Cathy Oda. Motion carried unanimously; amended Meeting Minutes approved.

**WEBSITE PAGE FOR PARKS**

Amy Welker shared the current City of Piqua Parks webpage with the board. She said that the new Public Information Officer Michelle Perry is going to make updates soon to this parks website page, particularly the addition of more pictures showcasing the parks. Amy said this could also be an opportunity for the board to contribute to the enhancement of the park's webpage by researching information about each park, such as historical significance or highlights. The board agreed to contribute, and each member signed up for the park(s) he/she is willing to report on. Amy shared that she also would like to include the specific location of trees and benches within the parks that are part of the Memorial Program. Another addition to the webpage she would like to include is a chart listing all amenities at all the parks to quickly and easily inform people visiting the website.

**IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

The board had a discussion about the Comprehensive Parks Master Plan, noting the need to focus efforts due to labor and funding restraints. Natalie discussed the board's goal to provide specific recommendations in their annual report to the City Commission. Natalie recommended that a certain amount of funds be dedicated each year to improvements in each park.

**MINI MASTER PLANS**

Natalie then asked each board member to provide their observations and recommendations for Shawnee Park. Some of these included: the need for updated playground equipment, more trees, more benches, updated signage, landscaping, a park shelter, and an inviting entrance. Bob Graeser suggested that the board ascertain what age group of children is primarily using this park.

Natalie then asked each board member to provide their observations and recommendations for Kiwanis Park. Some of these included: a soccer goal, painting a football field on the turf, more trees, more mulch, more seating, replacement of the baby swings, the addition of a manual scoreboard and bike racks, lighting, and natural grasses. The board agreed that this park has a good balance of a play area, a seating area, and an open space for running and playing sports.

It was decided that the board will narrow down the list of all ideas collected to determine the "Top 3" priorities in each park. The board will gather information for French Park and Das Park for the next meeting.

**STAFF REPORT**

Bob Graeser reported that the Riverway Summit hosted by the city last week was a big success, as we had guests here from Miamisburg to Sidney admiring Piqua. He also was proud to announce that Piqua was named "Tree City USA" for the 29<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Bob said the Arbor Day Event held yesterday at PCIS was also a huge success and gave a history

of how it began in 1872 by J. Sterling Morton with the purpose of teaching children the value of trees. Bob said that a lot of new trees will be planted in the downtown area and in the new Lock 9 Park this year.

Amy provided Park Department updates, including the hiring of 3 seasonal helpers for Summer, an opportunity to partner with RT Industries this Summer, and the recent volunteerism of students from Lehman Catholic High School at Fountain Park and employees of Crane Pumps at Mote Park. Cathy is going to send Thank You cards to both groups. Amy said that the concrete foundation is poured for the new Gaga Ball Pit at Pitsenbarger Park, and the Parks crew will be starting the Disc Golf Course at Mote Park soon. She announced that Friends of Piqua Parks is looking at doing a project at Fountain Park this fall.

#### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Terry said he would like for the Park Board to make Quarterly Reports to Commission of what the board is doing and succeeding at, along with keeping the Commissioners informed. He and Natalie will begin providing this report to the Commission in July. He also would like to have an Arbor Day Event in the parks in 2025.

Natalie announced that she reached out to some local contacts about gathering more information for a Pollinator Project in Piqua. She would like the board to listen to a presentation at the next meeting as to what this project would entail, such as a site location, a good estimate of cost, and a good idea of what the long-term savings to the city would be once in place. Pat commented that wildflower mixes tend to be very expensive at \$25-30 per pound. He said these are lightweight and would need to be planted in the fall. Bob commented that the Ohio Department of Transportation is also creating pollinator areas to save on mowing costs.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

~~Cindy moved for~~ adjournment of the meeting; motion was seconded by Marcia. Motion carried unanimously. The Park Board Meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.