



Tuscora Park Board Meeting June 19th, 2024

Meeting called to order at 12:02pm by Park Board President Jan McInturf

Members In Attendance: Tom Farbizo, Jan McInturf, Bill Morgan, Jim Range, Kelly Ricklic, and Phil Tidrick

Excused Absence: Courtney Shalosky

Guests: Mayor Joel Day, Park Director Adam Fulton, Service Director Ron McAbier, Councilman Mitch Pace, and Rich Geib

Approval of May 15, 2024, Park Board Minutes:

1st: Phil Tidrick

2nd: Tom Farbizo

Vote: Approved, Unanimous (6-0)

Guest speaker Rich Geib, representing RTY, spoke to the Board seeking approval for placement of new benches around Tuscora Park - with the benches being paid for by RTY. After an extended discussion by the Board with Mr. Geib, the Board approved the idea

Approval of park benches from RTY:

1st: Kelly Ricklic

2nd: Bill Morgan

Vote: Approved, Unanimous (6-0)

Park Director Report:

Park Director Adam Fulton said that the Tuscora Park staff had been checking and finishing improvements at Tuscora Park, including signage at various pavilions in the park.

Mayor's Report:

Service Director Ron McAbier, speaking on behalf of Mayor Day, said New Philadelphia had received \$250,000 from the bi-annual state budget to continue the improvements at Southside Park. Mr. McAbier also stated the restroom improvements, including new toilets, had been completed at the restrooms near the pickleball courts at Tuscora Park and that the restrooms were now open to the public.

RTY Report:

Rich Geib, representing RTY, said the Ferris wheel at Tuscora Park was repaired and operating properly. Before the ride is opened to the public, Mr. Geib said it had to pass state inspection.

Geib also said the new engine for the train ride at the park was ready and the passenger cars were operationally ready, but the passenger cars had not yet been painted. And until the painting of those cars was complete, the train would not be shipped to the park.

An extended discussion was held, regarding placing elevated netting protection between the varsity baseball field (Field 1) at Tuscora Park and the area where new kiddie rides would be installed for the 2025 season (formally where the batting cages were located). Following the discussion, an agreement was reached to install the netting structure.

Approval of Tuscora Park netting structure (appx. cost \$19,000) with the cost to be split between the City of New Philadelphia, RTY, & the Tuscora Park Foundation:

1st: Tom Farbizo

2nd: Jim Range

Vote: Approved, Unanimous (6-0)

Tuscora Park Foundation Report:

Jan McInturf said that Brian and Julie Maurer were interested in helping both Tuscora Park & the Park Foundation grow their social media presence. Mitch Pace added that grants were being applied for to benefit a Fall Fishing Derby.

Old Business:

Kelly Ricklic said that fundraising efforts were continuing for further improvements to Field 1 (the Varsity Baseball field) at Tuscora Park. Tom Farbizo added, as a part of those fundraising efforts, that grants had been applied for to both the Marsh and Tuscarawas County Foundations.

Mitch Pace reported that the improved baseball and softball fields at Waterworks Park had been heavily used during the spring. Pace also said that the new concession stand at Waterworks had been very successful and that plans were in the works for some dugout replacements at Waterworks as well.

New Business:

Special Olympics has approached the Park Board about adding an additional bocce ball court at Tuscora Park. The court would be handicap accessible.

Approval of a new bocce ball court:

1st: Phil Tidrick

2nd: Kelly Ricklic

Vote: Approved, Unanimous (6-0)

Tom Farbizo reported that resurfacing of both the tennis courts and pickleball courts will begin on or around July 8th. Farbizo added that completion time is expected to be between 10 days and 2 weeks.

Park and city officials are working with Park Police and New Philadelphia City Police to improve some challenges currently being presented in the parks due to the homeless issue.

The majority of improvements for the varsity soccer fields at the Southside Park have been completed.

The Park Board discussed honoring Rod Miller, who recently retired as Park Director after serving New Philadelphia for over 50 years. The Board decided to name an extended part of the walkway through Tuscora Park "Rod Miller Way." Signs will be posted on the walkway near the opening of the park at 2nd St. NW and Tuscora Ave., at the entrance to the walkway on the north side of the park across from the park garages, & on the walkway near the Ferris wheel.

Approval of Rod Miller Way:

1st: Phil Tidrick

2nd: Bill Morgan

Vote: Approved, Unanimous (6-0)

Motion for Adjournment:

1st: Tom Farbizo

2nd: Bill Morgan

Vote: Approved, Unanimous (6-0)

Meeting adjourned at 1:23pm.

~ Meeting Minutes submitted by Bill Morgan