



Tuscora Park Board Meeting May 15th, 2024

The meeting was called to order in the Tuscora Park pavilion by President Jan McInturf at 12:05 p.m.

Members in attendance: Jan McInturf, Tom Farbizo, Todd McMath, Kelly Ricklic and Jim Range

Excused absence: Bill Morgan, Phil Tidrick and Courtney Shalosky

Guests in attendance: Mayor Joel Day, Service Director Ron McAbier, Parks & Recreation Director Adam Fulton, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director Jan Herron, City Council member Mitch Pace, and Cameron Krahel, a representative of the Tuscarawas County Soap Box Derby.

Guest Presentation – Krahel sought board approval for the Tuscarawas County Soap Box Derby's erection of a permanent 10' x 16' sign at the southeast corner of the intersection of Wabash and Second Street NW on Tuscora Park property which would advertise upcoming Soap Box Derby races. After lengthy discussion and following a motion by Farbizo to permit the erection of the sign, the matter was not voted upon for lack of a second.

Minutes of the April 17th, 2024 meeting were approved unanimously following a motion by Farbizo with a second by McMath.

Mayor's Report – Day said that state and federal grant requests for construction of the road inside the Southside Community Park are still pending. The Mayor also reported that the Quaker Club and the city administration have begun investigation of grant funding for construction of permanent restrooms at the locker room end of Quaker Stadium.

Park Director's Report – Fulton indicated that the pump in the park pond is operating. Also, youth baseball and softball play is in full swing. At McInturf's suggestion and with a nod to the busy schedule of the park director and assistant park director due to the upcoming park opening, the park board will tentatively conduct a walk-around of the park at its next meeting in June.

Tuscora Park Foundation Report – Ricklic advised the board that at this time there is a lack of funding for the \$19,750 purchase of netting and 60-foot poles for protection of park patrons on the right field

line of Field #1. As a result, following a motion by Range and a second by Farbizo, the board voted unanimously to prohibit any organized baseball games on Field #1 during the remainder of 2024 because of safety concerns.

Old business – Pace, the New Philadelphia youth baseball commissioner, said that sponsor signs will not be placed along the 1st base side and the 3rd base side of the backstop on Field #2. He reported that a softball tournament, rained out in Kent, Ohio the weekend of May 11-12, was hurriedly moved to the Waterworks ball fields due to the excellent drainage of the playing surfaces there. Pace said dugouts on other fields at Waterworks may be constructed this fall, funding permitting.

Concerning the Trout Derby on April 27th, Pace reported that approximately 350 trout were cleaned by the volunteer concessionaire. An additional fall trout derby is being planned by the committee.

Farbizo reported that Vasco will examine the surface of the pickleball courts when the company is at the park in June doing the tennis court resurfacing. Due to the inability to find a tournament coordinator, the Park Foundation's proposed pickleball tournament the weekend of June 15-16 will probably not proceed.

Farbizo informed the board that a location for the Tribute Wall has been determined, but that the number, size, and levels of giving amounts for the plaques are matters being determined.

McAbier reported that the upgraded restrooms on Al Maloney Midway are functional but have yet to be fully completed by the contractor. He indicated that the boat ramps on State Rt. 416 and at Waterworks have been installed for the season. Also, the former press box at the varsity soccer field at the Southside Community Park is being removed and a new press box is being installed.

New business – Day advised the board that the dedication ceremony for the Tuscora Park historical marker at the amphitheater will be held Sunday, May 26th at 7 p.m.

Farbizo reported that the Special Olympics organization has inquired about the construction of a third bocce ball court next to the existing courts to facilitate the organization's tournaments there. Usage will be examined before a decision is made on the request.

McInturf said a one-mile walk will be added to the First Town Days schedule on Saturday, July 6th in conjunction with his annual company-sponsored 5K run. The entry-fee proceeds from the walk will be earmarked towards the construction costs of the new inclusive playground at Tuscora Park.

Following a motion by Ricklic and a second by McMath, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

The next New Philadelphia Park Board meeting will be Wednesday, June 19, 2024.

~ Meeting minutes submitted by Jim Range.