

MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Work Session

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Roll Call and Call to Order

Board Members Present: President Lawrence VanWasshenova, Vice President Floreine Mentel, Parliamentarian Cheryl Sweeney, Trustee Matthew Bunkelman, Trustee Robert Nichols, and Trustee Rosalie Pasko

Board Members Absent: Secretary Cynthia Taylor

Administrators Present: Julie Everly, Katherine Eighmey, Cindy Flynn, Jerry Oley, David Payne

Administrators Absent: Terry Joseph

President VanWasshenova called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

MCISD Board Candidates

Dr. Stephen McNew, Monroe County ISD Superintendent, introduced Dale DeSloover and Russell Bless who are seeking re-election to the ISD Board at the biennial election on June 5, 2017. Each of the nine local school boards will designate a representative and adopt a resolution identifying the candidates it supports for the ISD Board. The representative will cast their vote in the June 5th election.

Bicentennial Celebration

The Monroe County Bicentennial Alliance was developed to celebrate and facilitate a year-long tribute to the Bicentennial of Monroe County. Chris Kull, a member of the Alliance, talked about events that will take place over the next several months, including the Founding Day Event at Loranger Square on July 14. The Legacy 200 Project, which coordinates with the Bicentennial Alliance, plans to erect a statue of President James Monroe in front of City Hall.

City Planning Department

Members of the city planning department were invited to discuss the city's interest in some of the properties the district is selling. Parks and Recreation Director, Loretta LaPointe; City Manager, Vince Pastue; and Mayor Bob Clark were present.

Mr. Pastue gave an overview of the department's interest in creating a neighborhood park on a portion of the Christiancy property. Mrs. LaPointe talked about the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which helps connect them into the River Raisin National Battlefield Park, as well as things that will be happening in the city.

Mrs. LaPointe shared a map that showed the location of parks throughout the city. The only park in the Christiancy area is a small park at the corner of Arbor and Lorain. For children who live in the Christiancy area, Arborwood's playground or Cappuccilli Park is too far for them to walk or ride their bike. Mr. Pastue stated that the city is in transition with the maintenance of their parks. They now have two full time people in addition to their seasonal support. Mrs. LaPointe referenced their current newsletter which talked about what they're doing to update the parks, such as replacing the mulch at Navarre, separated an old tennis court at Manor Park to pickle ball courts, resurfaced Munson Park, and installed a new playscape at Martin Luther King Park. This year, park bathrooms will be remodeled. Mr. Bunkelman asked if the city has considered

installing community gardens. Mrs. LaPointe said there is one at Munson, and they are considering installing some near low income housing. Mr. Pastue said that, in cooperation with MCCC, they are looking at expanding urban gardening at ALCC. He anticipates a more robust garden at that location, as well as other sites around the city.

Mr. Bunkelman asked if the city has any water related plans for the future. Mrs. LaPointe said the goal at Mill Race Park is to have a canoe and kayak "put in" spot. There are also plans for two small splash parks. Mr. Bunkelman mentioned the possibility of everyone who utilizes Navarre Field combining their resources to pay for the much needed renovations at that location.

The city has plans to update the following parks: Mill Race, Munson, Cairns, Manor, Labor, and St. Mary's. In the past, parks were decommissioned because playscapes were in really poor shape and very expensive to replace. The location of the park was also considered; was there more than one park in close proximity. Mr. Pastue stated that the city exceeded the national standard for parkland for a community our size.

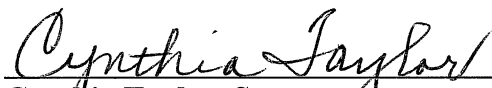
Mr. Bunkelman asked if there is any coordination with townships in developing parks and recreation. Mrs. LaPointe said there really isn't competition between the city and townships, because residents usually want to go to the park closest to them or participate in baseball/softball league close to their home. Mr. Pastue said the Master Plan will be updated in 2019, and it is important to work closely with townships, particularly in the ball field area.

Mrs. Everly asked about enrollment in the city's summer programs compared to 10 years ago. Mrs. LaPointe said that recreation itself has changed; individuals and families aren't as involved in organized activities. Consequently, traditional softball and baseball for adult and youth has decreased.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Bunkelman; support by Mrs. Mentel that the 5:30 p.m., April 11, 2017, Work Session of the Monroe Public Schools Board of Education be adjourned.

Vote: Motion carried by a 6-0 hand vote at 6:59 p.m.


Cynthia Taylor, Secretary