

Brookville Board of Park Trustees
Regular Meeting
October 10, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Brookville Board of Park Trustees was called to order by President Blevins at 7:30 p.m. on October 10, 2023 in the City Council Chambers. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Trustees Cordes, Haney and Wilson; Council Liaison Fowler and Manager Keaton were present. Clerk Duncan was absent.

Roll call by President Blevins.

Motion by Haney, second by Cordes to approve the Agenda as presented. All yeas, motion carried.

Member Haney stated the minutes need corrected on the top of the second page to reflect either President Blevins in lieu of President Haney, or Member Haney, as she is not President this year.

Motion by Wilson, second by Haney to approve the September 12, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes with the correction noted by Member Haney. All yeas, motion carried.

Mark Schwab, of 127 Blue Pride Drive, stated he is here this evening as he recently walked through Golden Gate Park, near where honeysuckle was recently cleared in the wooded area adjacent to Hunters Run, and he thought we were creating walking trails. Mr. Schwab commented that he has worked with Preble County over the years assisting them with walking trails. He and his wife wanted to walk a loop around Golden Gate Park, and when they got to the park they noticed white painted lines throughout the park, probably left from the Cross Country Meet that was recently held there. The trail through the wooded area has already been made so it would be simple to add signs and create a walking loop through Golden Gate Park. Mr Schwab distributed a map that he created that outlines two proposed walking loops, an inner and an outer loop. There currently is no nice loop that residents can take. Mr. Schwab indicated he spoke with Five Rivers Metro Parks as he thought they owned the Wolf Creek Rail Trail, adjacent to Golden Gate Park, but he found out the City owns the Trail. Mr. Schwab commented that the City could install signs, or rubber pavers every 20' that display the route. Mr. Schwab distributed a map of Garber Forest in Preble County that he worked on. Mr. Schwab indicated since the City owns a woodchipper, we could place wood chips for walking paths. Maybe you could get a grant in the future to pave the walking paths. If Park Board is interested, he can do a lot of the work on signage and clearing the honeysuckle. Mr. Schwab indicated that he could assist with keeping the pathway looking nice by trimming back the honeysuckle in the area formerly known as Hollywood.

President Blevins stated this is something that we would have to take to City Council for funding if Park Board wants to move forward with this project. We also need to see if you are able to volunteer your time in keeping the area trimmed.

Member Wilson inquired if Cross Country could use the same paths as outlined in his proposal.

Todd Clemmons, of 821 Flanders Avenue, commented if you move forward with the path project, the Scouts can assist with that project.

Mr. Clemmons stated he learned that site four was approved by Park Board for the Boy Scouts Amphitheater project, but the Boy Scouts are interested in site five behind the Waffle House building. The Scouts have their reasons against it, but after talking with some people at the VFW, some things came together where site five is pretty ideal. First, this area can be tied into Gateway Park and right now when the VFW has ceremonies, they do not have much room to hold a ceremony. This could give them a larger area to hold future ceremonies. Secondly, this amphitheater project was also going to be dedicated to Joe Heltsley and to Tom Herkins.

Mr. Clemmons commented on the trash problem that Park Board was worried about; they could place plants or some kind of barrier to catch the trash as it blows down. Mr. Clemmons stated the City could expand the parking lot over toward the amphitheater to give that area more room for people to park when an event is held there. That would also allow people to come down during cold weather for handicap parking as well as be able to sit in their car and watch.

President Blevins stated there is a drainage pipe located behind the restaurant and that is one of the main reasons Park Board didn't select the Waffle House location initially. The pipe may have to be moved or shifted to give you enough space, and he thought that location would cost the Scouts more money in the long run.

Member Wilson asked, do you think the VFW would utilize the amphitheater more if it was located behind the Waffle House?

Mr. Clemmons responded they seemed more excited about it being located behind the Waffle House.

Member Haney commented that this location may provide some funding for the Scouts.

Scout Leader, Matt Moler, also in attendance remarked the drainage pipe may not have to be relocated. We may be able to allow the water to flow through the amphitheater. The Army Corp of Engineers will need to be consulted to determine if the pipe needs to be relocated. Mr. Moler stated if they need the pipe moved, we will move it. If the Army Corp of Engineers determines the pipe can remain at its current location and with the natural slope in that the area, the water can be directed through the amphitheater to the creek.

Motion by Wilson, second by Haney to authorize the relocation of the amphitheater project to site five, behind the Waffle House and adjacent to Gateway Park, as long as there are no issues with the storm drain. All yeas, motion carried.

Matt Moler, of Brookville Boy Scouts, due to timing and the complexity of constructing a 100-foot long tunnel on the exit drive as discussed at the September Park Board Meeting, they are considering making an arch across the parking lot near the entrance of the park by the Golden Gate Park/Park Board sign. The project along the exit will be considered in future years due to possible trees/shrubbery that need to be removed, and if it can even be done. The height of the proposed arch will be 15'.

Manager Keaton stated she will contact Rumpke to see what the height of their vehicle is as they empty trash containers in Golden Gate Park.

Mr. Moler indicated the approximate cost to construct the tunnel properly on the exit drive is between \$11,000 and \$15,000 and their pockets are not that deep.

Member Haney inquired if the arch will be lighted.

Mr. Moler indicated yes; the plan is to install icicle lights and they are anticipating some signage for the archway.

The consensus of Park Board is they are in favor of the lighted arch near the entrance of Golden Gate Park for 2023.

Manager Keaton reported Park Permits are up \$3,093, League Fees are up \$2,400, and donations are down \$14,183 through September 2023 compared to September 2022.

Manager Keaton reminded Park Board that Ghostly Night Out is Saturday, October 21 from 6-9:30 p.m. The Brookville Police Department is still taking candy and monetary donations for this event, or you can sign up to assist with the event.

Manager Keaton reported she applied for a \$1,500 Walmart Community Grant last week.

Manager Keaton stated last month she shared with Park Board about the Story Book Trail that would be set up in Golden Gate, Ward, and Powell Parks on the first of October. That project was delayed one week due to material delays. The storybook signs are up in all three locations and will be displayed through October 23.

Manager Keaton reported we have another damaged slide in the Castle Playground. She is waiting for a quote to either replace the cracked section of slide or replace the entire slide.

Manager Keaton reported she has received requests for additional Pickleball courts in Brookville, so she reached out to a company in Columbus who is currently working on a similar project for Huber Heights and requested a quote from them. This company looked at our Golden Gate Park tennis courts, which are in poor shape, and the cost to mill off the existing asphalt, add stone and apply new coating and paint lines is approximately \$115,000. Manager Keaton stated this project will not be happening in the near future due to budget limitations.

Member Haney commented that she saw a couple walking through the Story Book Trail at Golden Gate Park and she thought the project was a neat idea.

Member Haney remarked she recently noticed a young man riding his bike, he then parked his bike and hopped across the fence and cleaned up the fence row and put it in the trash. Member Haney stated that was a wonderful spontaneous gesture.

Member Cordes had no report.

Member Wilson had no report.

President Blevins had no report.

Under Old Business, President Blevins indicated he brought up last month that the Chamber will be donating funds to the parks, specifically toward Christmas in the Park if we do not receive the Walmart Community Grant. The funds can go toward lights and power cords.

President Blevins stated, on the Christmas in the Park event, we need to set some dates for decorating. The consensus at the September Meeting is to set up decorations on Friday, November 17, with a fall back date of Saturday, November 18. Decorations will be put together in Building 3. The opening night for Christmas in the Park is Friday, December 1 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Park Board will be available to take donations and hand out goody bags to children. Removal of the decorations is scheduled for Friday, January 5, 2024, with a fall back date of Saturday, January 6, 2024.

Member Wilson indicated she has to work on Friday's and Saturday's but will assist with anything that needs to be finished on the following Sunday.

Member Haney stated FFA has committed to decorating Building 3.

Member Haney reported she spoke with Delta Theta Tau, and their only request is to have the Service Department assemble the two new artificial trees for the Leiber Center.

Manager Keaton commented that she will have the Service Department assemble the two trees.

President Blevins reported we need to discuss what items we may need to purchase this year, such as rope lights for the trees and extension cords, and items for the goody bags. We are not going to purchase inflatables this year.

President Blevins encouraged Members to contact their groups that they contacted in prior years to see if they will be participating this year, and feel free to reach out to any new organizations to see if they wish to participate.

Motion by Haney, second by Wilson to adjourn. All yeas, motion carried.


Sonja M. Keaton, City Manager


Adam Blevins, President