



SHAKER HEIGHTS

**Recreation Committee Agenda
City Hall Council Chambers
Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 6:00PM**

1. Approval Of Minutes

Documents:

[DRAFTNOV2017MINS.PDF](#)

2. Thornton Park Ice Rink Study Presentation

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SHAKER HEIGHTS

SHAKER HEIGHTS RECREATION AND HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING

CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2017

6:00 PM

Members Present: Sean Malone, Council Member, Chairperson
Jeri Chaikin, CAO
Anne Williams, Council Member
Jennifer Boland, Citizen Member
Sara Schiavoni, Citizen Member
Alexandria Nichols, Recreation Department Director

Others Present: Jan Devereaux, League of Women Voters Representative
John Evans, Asst. Facility Manager, Recreation Department
Two students from Shaker Heights High School

Call to Order

Sean Malone, Council Member, Chairperson

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 PM by Council Chairperson, Sean Malone.

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Approval of October 4, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Sean Malone, Council Member, Chairperson

Minutes from the October 4, 2017 meetings were approved as written.

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Fee Recommendation for Traditional Camp

An overview of how the Traditional Camps operate was addressed by Director Alex Nichols (see memo for details). The fee change recommendation is based on the following issues, which the recreation department presents for discussion for the committee:

1. Fees. The fee structure is currently so complex that the recreation department is unable to accept online registrations last year due to the different fees' discounts offered. When the registration module was purchased, the City promised that all programs would be available for registrations online; however, online registration for Traditional Camps was impossible.

2. Value. There are a number of people who buy camps in multiple weeks during the summer; however, for those families who are unable to buy more than one week at a time it makes it more expensive.

These fees are not regulated by ordinance; however, the City would like the committee's feedback and input.

Questions

1. Since there will be an increase for those looking to register for multiple weeks, how many people will be impacted?
Answer: Approximately 45% of people register during the early bird period and many of them buy multiple weeks at a time; 17% register during the preseason period and buy also multiple weeks at a time; 28% register during regular season and buy one week at a time and 9% are non-residents.
2. Can the fee change cause issues with planning and might people be less likely to register for multiple weeks?
Answer: Camps at other communities don't have as many tiers as ours. Many residents like to plan early in which case they would still buy multiple weeks at a time and they will take advantage of the price difference between early bird and pre-season even though there is not a big difference.

In 2016 the schools implemented the SELF program with morning and full day camp programs and this impacted the number of people registering in our programs and in some cases we had to reduce staffing to adjust for fewer participants. In 2017 the schools run the programs again; however, Fridays were not included which helped us gain some numbers.

Participants can register one business day before the camp starts and they can even register on the same day, but a late fee is assessed.

3. Are sibling discounts something we can consider for camps as well?
Answer: We do offer it for school age care and we can certainly consider it for camps. We need to see how the set up might be in the system.
4. Are half-day camp fees changing too?
Answer: Half-day camp fees remain the same with a flat fee of \$70 for residents and \$90 for non-residents.

Even though all residents will learn of the fee change through the Recreation brochure, it was recommended by Council members to advise past participants of the fee change for 2018 camps through other social means.

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Park Amenities Presentation

CAO Jeri Chaikin explained that Council is asking for \$150,000 to update the amenities in the various parks and playgrounds throughout the City. Since the

City is also undertaking a study for the ice rink to determine the status of its infrastructure, major recommendations were held off until this study is finalized.

The goal is to update the parks with residents' input and determine how to spend this \$150,000.

Director Alex Nichols presented a report on the condition of the park amenities.

1. Equipment Condition – A photo of a picnic table at Chelton Park with rust on it, and the playground's play surface that has been fixed with different patches of different colors. This type of surface is pretty expensive to repair and replace.
2. Uniformity – As you wander around the parks, there is no uniformity with trash cans and seating and no park brand.
3. Fencing – Photos show a fence at a Courtland Oval that is cut off and others are rusted at Hildana Park.
4. Worn Out Features – A lamp post paint is starting to peel and signs are fading at Hildana Park, grills at Horseshoe Lake Park are rusted and the sun dial pavers at Hildana Park are coming out. When signs fade, there are issues with police enforcement.
5. Aging Play Equipment – The inside of the play log at Horseshoe Lake Park is aging with paint starting to peel, and the Chelton Park swings are crooked.
6. Seating in Poor Condition – As mentioned before there is a lack of uniformity in this area. The report shows poor condition for seating at Winslow Park and an arm rest fell off from a bench at Thornton Park.
7. Suggested Park Amenities – Other things the City provided at the parks during 2017 were the pop-up fitness programs that became quite popular, two park benches with wi-fi and fitness trails.

How much usage are the wi-fi benches getting?

Answer: One bench has 1 GB and the average between both benches is 1-2 GB up to 8 GB. These were installed in April 2017 and after one year of use there will be a better tracking data. 8 GB is not a lot and there is no way of knowing how the residents are using the data; it could be by searching the web, texting, social media, watching videos, etc

A survey was done in 2015 in the Moreland community regarding their parks and playgrounds with three major points of interest:

1. Security cameras
2. Youth Arts activities and programs – the recreation department begun these programs in 2015 and is considering expansion to Horseshoe Lake Park.
3. Summer Arts and crafts drop-ins – the recreation department added adult fitness pop-up programs, which were very well received. Planning to expand in 2018.

The City is interested in comments and feedback regarding repair and replace priorities for the parks and playgrounds but also if changes should be made in the parks.

Comments and questions:

1. The idea of branding was liked by all.
2. Increasing trash cans and recycling is very important so parks can be better maintained.
3. How far will the \$150,000 go to repair and replace? Answer: Park benches cost approximately \$1,000 to \$4,000, drinking fountains cost around \$3,000 to \$5,000.
4. An appropriation for \$200,000 to \$250,000 was advised since the \$150,000 would not go far and the parks look like in dire condition.
5. Which are the most heavily used parks? Answer: Probably Chelton, Horseshoe Lake, Sussex, Thornton Park, Around the World. Some structures at Horseshoe Lake may need updates like the spider. Another important park is Chelton due to its access to Lee Road where the City is trying to bring new businesses. Awareness of a park nearby is beneficial.
6. The 2015 survey was very useful; however, a new survey focusing on the replace/repair amenities might be helpful to see what is important for the Moreland community.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm. The next Recreation and Health Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 6, 2017, 6:00 pm at City Hall Council Chambers.

Sean Malone, Council Member
Chair, Recreation & Health Committee