

**Minutes
Parks and Recreation Committee
Village Office, Three South Main Street
Thornville, Ohio
February 6, 2023**

Attendee List:

Erica O'Neill- Chair
Sterling Krout- Vice Chair
Kim Billman

Village Officials:

Gina Kaetzel- Mayor
Traci Sturgill- Administrator
Kelly Beem- Fiscal Officer
Dan William- Chief of Police

Guests:

Lynne Snider
Ashley Moore
Tasia Savage

Call to Order:

Committee Chair Erica O'Neill called the Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting to order on February 6, 2023 @ 7:05 p.m.

Roll Call:

Roll call was taken with Committee Vice Chair Sterling Krout and Committee member Kim Billman and Committee Chair Erica O'Neill present.

Review/Approval of Parks and Recreation Committee Agenda for February 6, 2023

Committee Chair Erica O'Neill asked for a **motion** to approve the business agenda for February 6, 2023. A **motion** was made by Committee Vice Chair Sterling Krout to approve the agenda and was seconded by Committee Kim Billman. A roll call vote was taken with all committee members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Sterling Krout- aye
Kim Billman- aye
Erica O'Neill
Motion passed 3-0

Review/Approval of the Parks and Recreation Committee minutes for January 3, 2023

Committee Chair Erica O'Neill asked for a **motion** to approve the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting minutes for January 3, 2023. A **motion** was made by Committee member Kim Billman and was seconded by Committee Vice Chair Sterling Krout. A roll call vote was taken with two committee members voting aye and one committee member voting abstain due to absence.

Roll Call:

Kim Billman- aye
Sterling Krout- aye
Erica O'Neill- abstain
Motion passed 3-0

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Old Business:

- Playground update: Village Administrator Traci Sturgill advised the new playground equipment is on order. We are hoping for a May install date.

- Pool Update: Village Administrator Traci Sturgill advised she heard from Spear Corp with the cost for them to put together the design estimate for the pool, which is \$27,000. This means for us to get the design and structural engineering repair costs (ADR Engineers \$25,000 previously approved) for the pool the total engineering portion for that will be \$52,000. This would also include the bid docs needed. Traci will have a design contract from Spear Corp at the next council meeting for council to decide how we are moving forward with the pool. She asked them for a ballpark number of what they feel we will be under. At this time, they felt the quote would be around \$1 million but again this is just going off of previous jobs they have completed. All material costs have changed.

Village Administrator Traci Sturgill also has been looking into grants, loans and levies. She spoke with the Auditors office in regards to a pool levy. We would need to put this on as a separate "Parks & Rec Levy" with verbiage included that it will pay for the debt of the pool or increase the current Parks & Rec Levy that is up next year. City of New Lexington pays for their pool debt, maintenance etc. this way. In order to bring in \$51,000 per year to cover a loan payment on the pool of \$600,000 we would need a 2 mil levy on the ballot to pass which would only cover the loan payment but once this debt is paid in full we would have operating funds for the pool. This is approximately \$70 per year on a \$100,000 home appraisal. Committee Vice Chair Sterling Krout feels we should continue moving forward getting prepared with the total renovation estimates so we are prepared for the grant process. Mayor Kaetzel added if we decide to put a Parks & Rec Levy on this year's ballot, we will definitely want to have informational public meetings to explain our reasoning. We will be leaving it up to the Village voters to decide if we should repair/replace and re-open the swimming pool. The levy would cover pool maintenance also. Sterling asked what the next step is to prepare the levy for the ballot. Mayor Kaetzel advised we could add this to the next newsletter to give everyone the information on the levy and then set up an informational meeting for the public. Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem advised Traci will need to prepare the levy ordinance.

Committee Vice Chair Sterling Krout made a **motion** to move the additional Pool/Parks & Recreation Levy to the full council. **Motion** seconded by Committee member Kim Billman. A roll call vote was taken with all committee members voting aye.

- **Downtown Beautifications/Community Park-** Mayor Gina Kaetzel updated the committee on the lot across the street we had previously discussed purchasing. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill spoke to the property owner and his price is \$55,000. Mayor Kaetzel spoke with him today and got him to \$50,000. He also called her back and advised he would also be willing to do a payment plan with the Village. Committee Chair Erica O'Neill suggested selling the park in Foster Manor. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill advised there are 15-20 residents that would be involved. Some may want it and some not. Mayor Kaetzel added we would have to have them all surveyed separately and it is also deadlocked land.

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Erica added we would have some that want it and some that didn't and then we would have issues. Traci agreed. Committee Vice Chair Sterling Krout asked where the \$50,000 for the lot funds would come from? Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem advised we already have our budget set for this year so we would have to make an amendment. Sterling asked if it could wait till next year? Committee members didn't feel this was an urgent matter and we can hold off on any decision making for now.

Committee Chair Erica O'Neill feels it is a lot of money to spend while we have all these other items in the Village we are needing. Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem suggested looking for a grant to purchase the lot at OPWC Greenspace / Emerald Necklace grant. It was decided to table the lot until we research grants. Mayor Kaetzel would just like to see us keep people in the downtown area when possible.

➤ Flower pots- Mayor Kaetzel would like to see the flower pots upgraded. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill suggested we allocate/budget funds yearly for downtown beautification of the Village. Committee Chair Erica O'Neill stated she will volunteer to be the one to take care of the watering of the flower pots in the summer along with planting them, if needed. Committee Vice Chair Sterling Krout suggested getting rid of the stone around them. Erica suggested replacing the stone with a box built around them. Mayor Kaetzel is under the understanding the pots were donated and dedicated by different families and organizations around the Village but this was a very long time ago. We would definitely put the plaques in some sort of display. Mayor Kaetzel feels if we are going to get rid of the planters, we need to wait to see if our grant is approved and what we decide to do with the esthetic of downtown before we put anything else in there place. Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem added we can add a fund line for contributions and donations and budget yearly for the flowers. The Village of Somerset has a horticulture club that waters the flowers there.

Motion made by Committee Chair Erica O'Neill to move to council a vote to fund \$1500 into contributions & donations for the upkeep of the flower pots. Motion seconded by Committee member Kim Billman. A roll call vote was taken with all two Committee members voting aye and one committee member voting no.

Roll Call:

Sterling Krout- no
Erica O'Neill- aye
Kim Billman- aye
Motion passed 2-1

New Business:

➤ **Levies-** Village Administrator Traci Sturgill advised she already went over all the information she had on the levies previously tonight while discussing the pool updates.

Adjournment:

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With no further business, Committee Chair Erica O'Neill made a **motion** to adjourn was seconded by Committee Vice Chair Sterling Krout. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye

Roll Call:

Kim Billman-aye
Sterling Krout-aye
Erica O'Neill-aye
Motion passed 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.


Erica O'Neill, Committee Chair


Traci Sturgill, Clerk of Council