



Minutes

January 14, 2019

Location: Township Building 6400 Princeton Road

Park Committee Members: V. Michel Price, President | Bill Walker, Vice President | Kim Sippy, Treasurer | Laurie Ballenger, Secretary | Dave Lintner, local native plants/invasive plants expert

Liberty Township Parks Liaison: Rick Plummer

Call to order: 6pm with Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Present - Michel Price, Bill Walker, Kim Sippy, Laurie Ballenger, David Linter. Currently 3 seats are open. Present - Rick Plummer, Township Liason.

Introduction of Guests: None present

Ratify October Minutes (11/19/18): Unanimous

Quarterly Report : Q4 2018 Parks Marketing Summary (attached below)

Treasury Report:

- As of 9/13/19 - \$3621.93. The 2018 annual financial report from The WC/L Foundation will be available in February 2019.
- The Liberty Township Parks, through the Foundation, have received a gift/stock grant of \$615.76 from local family **Buck and Jennifer Rumpke**. A thank-you letter will be sent by the Liberty Township administration.

Updates:

Township Liason Report:

- Chuck Holliday's Memorial bench will be placed on the path between the original shelter at Dudley Memorial Park and the planned shelter site. Dave suggested a commemorative tree planting at the bench. The Township will arrange a ceremony with Chuck's family; Rick will notify the Committee of details as soon as they are available.
- The Township will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Fort Liberty playground this year. The Township has inquired if the Committee would like to be involved in the event; the Committee indicated to Rick "yes". Details TBA.
- The plans to develop a connecting walkway between the Turnbridge Sub and Cherokee Park are underway. The designate parkland at Turnbride are to remain natural and undeveloped. There are details with a grant and the EPA to be worked out.
- One of the trails at Wetlands West Park is closed temporarily due to dead ash trees.
- Rick will continue to provide contact information for any prospective new members.

Dog Park:

- The line of investigation into what it would take to add a dog park is suspended for now. The main concern is the proximity and convenience of the VOA dog park already maintained by BC Metroparks. Other concerns include maintenance hours and expense.

Work Days Subcommittee (Dave and Bill; Laurie - refreshments):

- Dave will work with Bill to develop a list of possible volunteers from leads we gained last year, and contacts from other years. Scout, school and other youth groups, and some adult groups such as Master Gardeners, were mentioned as good prospects for contact. Dave will communicate possible dates and locations for help needed for invasive control, mulching, etc., to the Committee. Who will contact and coordinate volunteers has not been established.
- There is a Garlic Mustard Pull Work Day planned at Dudley Woods Park Sat, April 27. This Work Day will be promoted at the Robert Henn Nature Walk at Dudley Woods being held the previous weekend to ensure sufficient interest.
- The Committee will help the Subcommittee plan other ways to promote Work Days (“Give A Hand Days”) in general.

Continuing Parks Business:

- Planning for the 2019 Parks Activities Calendar: A short description of each event will be provided to Rick for the use of the Township and for Committee purposes in promoting events and informing the public via the township website, other social media, flyers, etc. Laurie will present a rough draft by email for Committee edit, and then to Rick.
- The Committee will build a working list of experts to help lead future Nature Walks. For example, Mike Busam, who has led Dragonfly and Butterfly Walks in the past, was suggested by Bill as a possible contact. There are many possible contacts within the BC Metroparks network, and other local groups. This effort may need another Subcommittee to be assigned to ensure contact and scheduling follow-through.
- The Committee agreed to send Michel and Dave to represent Liberty Township Parks at the Midwest Native Plant Conference this year. Rick will register them as soon as registration opens.
- The Committee continues to partner with other local groups to promote the use of the parks. Examples are Sunset Yoga with the Lakota YMCA, and Butler County Water District events with Lyn White. These schedules/locations are TBD.
- The Lakota Summer Fun public outreach event will be held at LEHS on Mon, March 4 and LWHS on Wed, March 6 at 6-8pm. Michel will reserve tables at 4-4:30pm on both days. Laurie will follow to help set up 5:30p both days. So far, Michel and Laurie are available both nights, and Kim can help on Wed. More help is needed and members are encouraged to ask friends and family for any amount of donated time. Booth breakdown starts at 8p and help is needed to move display items to the car. Any youth in need of volunteers hours will be given official letters. Documents and photos are welcome from any member to refresh/update the display, and handouts are needed. Please forward to

Laurie soon. The finished Nature Walks flyer and a flyer for the School of Fish will be handouts, with print help from Rick/The Township. Also a number of Parks Passports will be needed. Laurie will see if we have enough Parks maps or if we need to request more. Fishing bobbers, candy, toy trinkets, etc., are useful – members are welcome to donate or suggest other.

- Dave has placed the annual plant order through Butler County, supported by the Township, for the use of the Committee each year.

Round Table Discussion:

- Each member/guest present was given an opportunity to cover a topic or ask new questions.
 - Dave volunteered interesting statistics regarding the progress of planting native trees and shrubs at Cherokee Park: In 2018, a total of 137 were planted; 39 in the Spring (34 trees, 5 shrubs), 98 (69 trees, 29 shrubs) in the Fall. Dave estimates he donated **566 hours** to the stewardship of Cherokee Park. He maintains the Liberty Township Parks Native Plant Nursery with the support of Rick/The Township, and also tends to plantings in other Liberty parks throughout the year, including Prairie Patches and Butterfly Gardens. He did not mention if the 566 hours covers these additional efforts, including any honeysuckle and garlic mustard eradications. He did not provide statistics for the many other years he has developed the Cherokee Park landscape and other parks property enhancement, although he says they are similar.

The Committee very much appreciates Dave's dedication and commitment to the quality of the Liberty Township Parks!

Adjournment: 7:52pm - Bill motioned, Kim seconded

Future Meetings: Feb 18 at the Township Garage; March 18 TBD

2018 Q4 Parks Marketing Summary:

- A photo of Cherokee Park was submitted to the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA) for consideration in the organization's 2019 calendar. The photo was accepted and placed in the calendar for the month of February.
- Social media response to parks' event pages: 1. Clean Sweep of the Great Miami, held on 10/27, 16 people expressed interest in the event.
- Social media posts relevant to Township parks: 1. Fall Festival photo album on Facebook, 10/1 2. Storytime at the Park event reminders, 10/5, 10/12 3. Clean Sweep of the Great Miami, 10/11, 10/25 4. Explore Township Parks, 10/19
- Community Email presence 1. October Township Update Clean Sweep of the Great Miami
- Dudley Memorial Playground Fence Ribbon Cutting 1. Featured in the "Quarterly Ribbon Cutting Recap" article in the Winter E-Newsletter. 2. Social media post on 11/9 3. Ribbon cutting photo added to the 2018 Ribbon Cutting photo gallery on the Township's website.
- Looking Ahead to 2019 1. A 2019 Liberty Township Parks event flyer will be created once the committee has determined the event dates. Events to be featured on the flyer include: April Wildflower Walk May Bird Walk June School of Fish July Nature Walk August Tree Walk *Events may be changed based upon the recommendation of the committee.* 2. Continue the promotion of partner events such as Sunset Yoga and Storytime at the Park.