Perkins Township Park Board Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2024

Chairman Dave McDowell called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. in the conference room of the Township Services Facility. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman McDowell.

**Attendees**Board members in attendance were Chairman Dave McDowell, Vice Chairman Dan McLaughlin, Secretary Donna Andres and Jennifer Yingling. Absent: Gary Toll- excused. Township staff in attendance was Public Service Coordinator Brittany Henley.

**Additions to the Agenda**

Vice Chairman Dan McLaughlin brought up an idea to have honorary board members and Jennifer brought up fundraising by the park board. Both will be discussed under “New Business”.

**Approval of meeting minutes from June and October 2024**

It was brought to our attention that we needed to formally approve minutes from 2 of our previous meetings. In July we did not have a quorum to approve June’s meeting minutes. For October, we did not have a November meeting so the approval needs to be at this meeting. A motion was made by Vice Chair McLaughlin to accept both meeting minutes as they were recorded, seconded by Ms. Yingling. The motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Fairview Lanes Park**

Public Services Coordinator Henley reported that the “springy” animal rides have been removed and will not be replaced and that the upgrading of the “kiddie area “of the park is on-going.

**Strickfaden Park**

PSC Henley also reported that senior bingo went very well and that Winterfest on Dec. 7th was well attended even though the Perkins Football State Playoff game was that evening and there was also a function going on at the Erie County Fairgrounds.

**Columbus Park**

The park equipment design has not been finalized because we are still waiting to see if some funding can be arranged to perhaps get the “space center” playground equipment since this park is closest to NASA’s Armstrong Test Facility. Secretary Andres noted that she had not heard any more from John Blakeman who is the man with contacts at NASA. The last time we heard anything from Mr. Blakeman, he stated this was not a good time to ask for help with funding the equipment.

**Santa Parade**

This parade with Santa in a fire truck going through the neighborhoods of Perkins Township and escorted by the Perkins Police is scheduled for December 21, starting at 2 p.m. The exact route can be found on the Township Facebook page. This has been a hit with young children in past years.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Honorary Park Board Members**

Vice Chair McLaughlin brought up the idea of asking Perkins High school students (juniors and/or seniors) to become honorary members of the park board. He suggested no more than 4 people. They would sit in on the meetings, give us their input on subjects we discuss, but not have voting privileges. This would give us younger perspectives and allow them to earn community service hours if they need this. It would also look appealing on their college resumes.

We felt it was too late for this years’ senior class, but we could discuss details at a future meeting and get the program in place for next school year. We would also need the Trustees’ approval.

**Park Board Fund Raising**

Ms. Yingling brought up the idea of the Park Board doing fund raising events to help the Township. She heard about this from someone in another area of Ohio, but didn’t have details. She said that maybe if we did fundraising events, this could help with a project like the rocket playground equipment that is over the budget for a Township park. She will try to get more information to bring to another meeting.

There will not be a meeting in January or February 2025. Our next meeting will be Monday, March 10 at 3 p.m. This will be after the Township has finalized its budget for 2025

A motion to adjourn was made by Jennifer Yingling, seconded by VP McLaughlin. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Andres

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Secretary