

**VILLAGE OF VALLEY VIEW
RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

6828 Hathaway Road
Valley View, OH 44125
(216) 524-9365

RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 18, 2015
7:00 P.M. Meeting

- I. Roll Call
- A. Todd Von Ville, Director of Recreation
 - B. Janet Flaherty, Assistant Director of Recreation
 - C. Rocco Casadonte, Recreation Board
 - D. Mike Foote, Recreation Board
 - E. Jeff Grabel, Recreation Board
 - F. Debbie Hartman, Recreation Board
 - G. Don Paulson, Recreation Board
 - H. Dan Westfall, Council Recreation Committee Chair
 - I. Barb Drockton, Council Representative – ABSENT
 - J. Julie Jakubczak, Council Representative – ABSENT
- II. Service Department/Groundskeepers
- Board member Rocco Casadonte asked if the groundskeepers have any plans to add screenings and drag the walking path in Valley View Woods. The Recreation Department will follow up with the groundskeepers on the issue.
 - Council Recreation Committee Chair Dan Westfall asked if some of the trees that are close to the road in Valley View Woods have been looked at to determine if they should be removed. The Recreation Department will follow up with the groundskeepers on the question.
- III. Water Play Area in Valley View
- The Board was asked by the Council Committee Chair and Representatives at its May meeting to come to a recommendation regarding a potential water play area in Valley View. Casadonte said that he has spoken with approximately 35 people about the proposed water play area, and only 3 people knew about the possibility. Casadonte said maybe the public should be consulted before making a determination. Board member Mike Foote stated that perhaps Council should seek the public input as they take the next step in the process following the Board's vote tonight.
 - Board member Don Paulson said that the Recreation Board has often had lengthy meetings on topics and ultimately offers recommendations to Council, and it is Council's discretion to go with or against the Board's recommendation. The Board knows and understands that their function is to offer advice and recommendations, and it is the role of Council to establish policy.
 - Board member Jeff Grabel asked the residents in attendance if they had opinions regarding the potential water play area they wished to share with the Board. Resident Joe Zemko stated that he believes the cost of a proposed water play area is too large considering the relatively small usage numbers and short time period during which an outdoor water play area could be utilized in northeastern Ohio. Zemko added that

enforcement could be a real issue since the facility would be for residents only. He stated that the most recent issue of the Village newsletter contained language regarding using Village resources wisely and aiming for sustainability, and he does not believe that a project like this would fit those guidelines. Resident Jim Oryl also said that his opinion is that the cost of such an area is too great considering the likely low usage numbers and small number of calendar days that such an area could be utilized.

- Grabel said that there may be other projects that could be identified that would impact a larger number of residents using the same amount of, or even less, money. Board member Debbie Hartman said that she received a note from a resident indicating that the resident's 12-year old relative would prefer to see a skate park as opposed to a water play area. Hartman stated that she does not believe that children in the 12-year old and up age range would have any interest in such an area, which would even further reduce potential usage.
- Paulson said that in his time on the Recreation Board, the Board has never advocated spending so much money for a project that will target such a small population for such a limited span of available days. Despite the fact that such a project may be funded by something other than Recreation funds, Paulson said that the funds that would be used are still Village money and therefore, the Board has a responsibility to consider if the money would be better spent on other projects/needs in the Village. Also, Paulson stated that the Board has worked on crafting a list of needs for the short time and long term, so will the Board and Council abandon some of those items in order to build a water play area? Paulson expressed concern that locating a water play area at the Community Center has not been thoroughly researched because there would need to be consideration given to building outdoor restrooms/changing areas to avoid having the tile floors of the Community Center wet and slippery from individuals coming into the facility while wet. If outdoor changing areas were not installed, then what would be the plan to avoid wet floors in the Community Center? The result could be a detriment to the Community Center. Paulson also said that if this was built and under-utilized, it would serve as a visible reminder to all of the misspent time and resources. Paulson added that the Board should vote based on what is best for the Village, not based on individual desires. Paulson said that he has long advocated for a pool, but he knows that it is not a feasible addition for the Village so he does not attempt to circumvent the process to build a pool.
- The Board decided to take a vote on the matter. The vote was 5-0 to recommend that Council **not** pursue building a water play area in Valley View.
- Westfall said that the next step would likely be up to Councilman Tom Perk to put some type of proposal to Council. The Board thanked Westfall for being present for the meeting knowing the vote was to occur at this meeting.

IV. Babysitting during workouts

- The Recreation Department is not providing a babysitting service during all workout times. However, a new program is being offered that will allow for class attendees or facility users to have their child be a part of a class geared to children during some time periods. There will be a nominal fee for the service. Board member Paulson asked if the Village needs to be aware of any certification or liability issues associated with such a program. There are no certifications needed and there are no increased liability concerns by the Village. A low ratio of children to instructor will be maintained at all times, meaning that the class could fill up and individuals would have to be turned away. The Recreation Department will keep the Board updated on program usage.

V. Project List

- Todd Sciano of Donald G. Bohning and Associates hopes to have a plan prepared for Council at its July meeting to consider the repair of the wall adjacent to the gazebo in Valley View Woods.
- Miller Park has some settling issues. Sciano and Paul Dey of Donald G. Bohning and Associates met with Village employees at the park and are working on options to present to the Board for future consideration.
- Clerk/Treasurer Carol Tomasko indicated that future replacement of the holding tank for the Pavilion A restroom could be paid for using Sewer and Water funds. The Board wishes to pursue this potential project more aggressively than was previously planned.
- The installation of ceiling fans at Pavilions A and B has been approved by Council. The fans and materials will be purchased soon so the fans can be installed this summer.

VI. Information Update

- Recreation Fund Available Balance Update (as of June 11, 2015) from Clerk/Treasurer Carol Tomasko: \$224,618.78.
- Challenger Sports Soccer Camp is June 15-19 at Valley View Woods.
- Recreation League Baseball and Softball games began on May 26. Valley View has 14 Recreation League teams and several residents are also participating on travel teams this season.
- Registration and planning has begun for fall activities.

VII. Other Discussion

- Foote asked if the Village could request that the County spray the park facilities for mosquitoes in the very near future, ideally prior to the Concert in the Park on June 24. The Recreation Department will ask Mayor Jerry Piasecki if he has a contact with the County that may be able to help with this request.

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 13 at 7:00 P.M. – Village Hall