

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

Held on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024



## MINUTES

March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson, Jeff Patterson called the Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting to Order at 3:30 P.M.

**Roll Call** Chairperson, Jeff Patterson, Howard Wade, Erica Bogner

**Quorum Declare:** 3 present, 0 absent.

Other staff attending: Director of Public Service, John Mitchell; Assistant to the Mayor & Community Engagement Officer, Jill Sorenson; Recreation & Specialty Events Manager, Shelton Stanley; and Clerk of Council, Tisha Edwards.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES:

**Motion to Adopt the Agenda** moved by Erica Bogner and seconded by Jeff Patterson.

**-All in Favor**

**Motion to Approve the Minutes** of the June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting . This meeting was a dual meeting with Public Service and Special Events. The minutes were approved and signed at the last Public Service and Special Events meeting on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

### NEW BUSINESS:

**-To discuss the proposed Story Trail at Westwood Park with Director, Chris Siscoe from the Hurt/Battelle Library.**

Mr. Siscoe came to speak about the Friends of the Library program and the possibility of a children's story trail in one of the West Jefferson parks to promote the importance of literacy. First, it had been discussed doing the trail from Garrett Park to the Community Center, but the Village opted not to do the connection so now they would like to discuss Westwood Park as a potential location.

The posts that will hold the books are similar to what you see in the metro parks that have information you can read as you walk the trails. These will be lowered for the children, and there will be multiple posts along the route and the story will continue as you walk. The Friends of the Library would be responsible for changing out the books. The trails usually extend for a ¼ of a mile to a ½ a mile. In that distance, they have proposed 12 reading stations along the way. They will be located to one side of the path so as to not limit the size of a vehicle that can get through for maintenance purposes. Mr. Siscoe stated that one of the members of the Friends of the Library is married to a gentleman who works for a contractor that is willing to do the work and the Friends of the Library would pay for the materials. There will be no charge to the Village.



## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

Held on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024

It was questioned by Public Service Director, John Mitchell, if the posts are weatherproof. Mr. Siscoe stated that they are. The plexiglass cover is secured over the book and then the Friends of the Library representatives would have the tools to open and switch out the pages when needed.

Vandalism is a concern that was stated. It was mentioned that Westwood park has the most traffic of children due to the easy access of walking from the homes in the area. Garrett Park is more adult supervised, and Converse Park is mainly for older kids who have access to the park. So, it would be necessary to have the posts made out of very durable materials. Chair Patterson asked if there was a park or area near West Jefferson that already has these stations in place to view. Mr. Siscoe stated that he was not sure, but Prairie Oaks may have them. After researching, the closest actual "Story trail" is located in Yellow Springs or at Alum Creek State Park. These are both maintained by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Mr. Siscoe's main reason of coming to the Committee today was to see if they were interested and to also make sure that this project wouldn't be in the way of any other project they were planning on in the park.

Recreation and Special Events Manager, Shelton Stanley suggested using QR codes on the stands instead of having the actual books. The response was that this will be primarily for toddler and younger aged children that would not have the ability to do that, and they want to encourage the books to the children. The Committee did like the suggestion of the QR code to possibly link the parents to the Library.

Everyone agreed that this would be a great addition to the Village. The main goal now will be to see an actual sample of the posts and for the Public Service Department and Parks and Recreation to work together with the Friends of the Library to see where the posts will be located along the trail. Director Mitchell stated that he would work with Mr. Siscoe to produce a plan and then Chair Patterson stated they would recommend it to Council after the plan is completed.

### **-Discussions over the proposed changes to Converse Park**

Director of Public Service, John Mitchell brought updated plans to the Committee to show the proposed updates to Converse Park. The plans showed potential changes to parking, additional playground areas, a possible pickleball court, concessions and restrooms as well as a new basketball court. The plans also showed proposed walking paths. The plans were broken down into 3 potential phases. The first phase will be the basketball court, pickleball court and the playgrounds. The second phase will be the concession area and restrooms and the third phase will be the replacement of the culvert and 100-120 additional parking spots added. There is a grant that was applied for, and we could potentially hear in June on the results of that grant. It is a potential multi-year grant. Additional lightening was discussed but Director Mitchell wanted to remind the Committee that the park closes at dusk, so we don't want to encourage people to be in the area once it is dark. The proposed plans are attached to these minutes. Chair Patterson stated that other Council members will be included to assist with choosing the playground equipment. Because the funds are already allocated for the project, no recommendation will be sent to Council.

**Recommendation to Council:** No recommendations at this time.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

Held on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024

ADJOURN

**Motion to Adjourn** by Chairperson Jeff Patterson at 4:29 p.m. Motion moved by Erica Bogner and seconded by Howard Wade.

All in favor.

Tisha Edwards 5-21-24  
Tisha Edward                      Date  
Clerk of Council

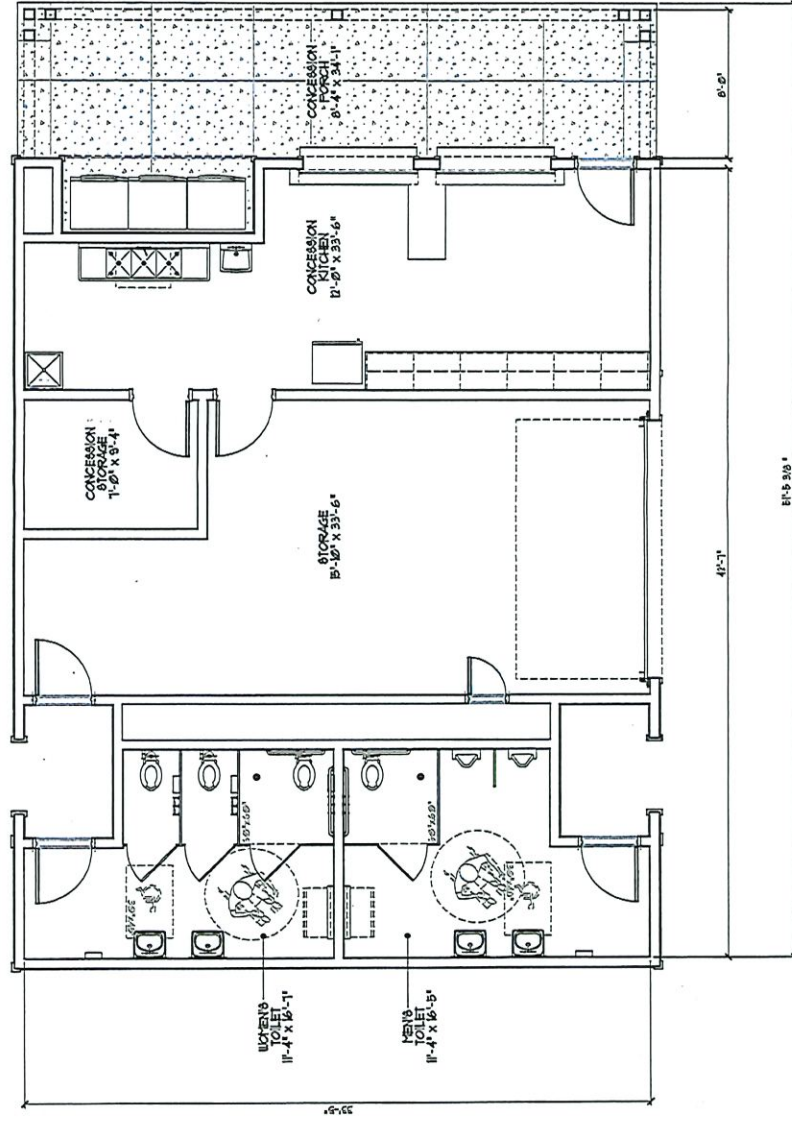
Jeff Patterson 5-20-24  
Jeff Patterson                      Date  
Chairperson



## GIS Main Map



3/22/2024



VILLAGE OF WEST JEFFERSON - CONVERSE PARK CONCESSIONS / TOILET ROOMS

CONVERSE AVENUE, WEST JEFFERSON, OHIO 43082



