

**PRESENT:** Chairman Sam Battle, Stacey Francis, Maggie Lieux, Gina Kilgore, Parks Director Reardon, and Secretary Tami Martinak

**ABSENT:** John Hammond

**GUESTS:**

- Legal Counsel Mark Craig, Mitzi Bakos, Patricia Jacobs, Aric Bowen, Bob Syms, Al Stacey, Councilman Andrew Lipian, Dave Coope, Shanise Dickerson, Maria Klein, Laura M.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**SPEAKER(s):**

- Mitzi Bakos: Reported that the milkweed came back wonderfully. Needs more space (won't be able to mow the area). Let lower area go. Monarch Butterflies main food is the milkweed. Decorations? Complaint about flower patch. No vandalism. Flag regarding Monarchs is ok. Decorations to be places, metal sign with flag. Monarch weigh station to be places at the Library,
- Aric Bowens & Al Stacy Elyria South Baseball Club. Presented a plaque to the Parks. Added two girl's softball teams. Also presented their Post Season information & achievements. Would like to use South Recreation again for from November to April for their Training Programs.
- Councilman Lipian here to listen and learn.

**MAYOR/SAFETY SERVICE OFFICE UPDATE:**

- Legal Counsel Mark Craig thanked the Parks for all of their hard work.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENTED ITEMS:**

- Agenda
- Minutes from April 11, 2024; May 9, 2024-no quorum; May 21, 2024-special meeting; June 13, 2024-no quorum; No July meeting-summer recess.
- April, May, June, July 2024 Financials
- Maggie Lieux made motion to approve the Consented Items, Gina Kilgore 2<sup>nd</sup>

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- None.

**BUSINESS:**

- Clint from the Arts Council "Little Free Library", wood structure for art supplies packets for small projects. Place in Ely Square.
  - Stacey Francis made motion to allow the "Little Free Library" to be placed in Ely Square. Location to be determined by Parks Director Reardon & the Arts Council. Maggie Lieux 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Maggie Lieux made motion to waive the fees for the Elyria South Baseball Club to use the South Recreation Center for their training program, Stacey Francis 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**MOTION CARRIED**

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**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- None at this time.

**PARKS DIRECTOR REPORT**

- **Recreation Assistant** - Doug Taylor has turned in his resignation. His last day with our department will be August 29<sup>th</sup>. Doug has been a great asset and he will be missed. He has accepted a position with the City of Twinsburg. We have posted his position and hope to fill it soon.

- **Pops Concert** - The Cleveland Pops concert will be on Saturday August 31<sup>st</sup>. This is a long-standing tradition to have them perform on the steps of the County Building. They put on a wonderful show.
- **Golf Outing** - Our department's Golf Outing is August 19<sup>th</sup> and we are full with 33 teams. This is a great event and all of the money raised goes back to our department. Over the past few years we were able to use those funds to update some of the 'houses' at Safety Town.
- Nicole Edwards has returned to work. Still has a long road to recovery.
- Pools are closing to the public on Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. Private rental on August 11<sup>th</sup>. Staff did a wonderful job at the pools. More advertising, use Seniors/Silver Sneakers.
  - Maggie Lieux made motion to accept the Parks Director's report. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Stacey Francis.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

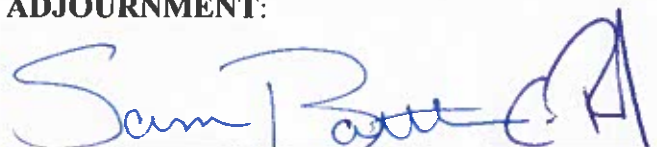
- **Nicole Edwards, Recreation Supervisor**
  - It's hard to believe that Summer is wrapping up and that school will soon be in session! I feel like the warm weather season is over before I have fully enjoyed it.
  - **Safety Town** - Due to my absence, Carrie was able to assist Officer Joe, Bonnie Husman, Parashaye Horton and Kennedy Shawver to complete all three sessions.
    - Session I had 73 registered participants
    - Session II had 64 registered participants
    - Session III had 57 registered participants
    - Approximately 92 Volunteers signed up
  - **Summer Camps** - Doug reported that all five weeks went well. He was pleased to have the majority of last Summer's Staff return. Registration of 50 campers per camp had filled up quickly. He stated that roughly 6-8 of participants who had signed up, didn't show up weekly. Parents gave praises to him and the staff for a great summer camp experience!
  - **Summer Concerts** - The rain stayed away and all scheduled performances brought joy to those in attendance!
- **Brandon Lawler, Recreation Supervisor**
  - What an amazing summer it has been! While our Summer Youth Soccer and T-Ball Leagues concluded with smiles and new excitement, our specialty camps exceeded expectations in every way. The Pickleball, Golf, E-Sports, Cheer, Basketball and Volleyball Camps provided many families with weeklong experiences that finished with "We can't wait until next summer!" In addition to the success of the specialty camps, Teen Night and the Mobile Rec were community favorites as well.
  - Now that we are transitioning from summer programs to fall programs, we are excited to continue preparation for the Fall and Winter! The Parks and Recreations Department has been working diligently on the Fall/Winter program brochure and we are eager to offer excellent experiences to our community! In October, we will be offering the *Super Mario Experience* which will include exploring various Mario games across multiple gaming systems.
  - In November we will have *E-Sport: Experience the Sports*. This program will have participants explore different sports on various gaming systems and will have them participate in physical activities involving the corresponding sport. We will conclude our E-Sports offerings for the year with Family Feud Night in December! Mirroring the popular game show, our goal is to give families an immersive experience of the show.

- Also, we will offer Fall Youth Volleyball, Soccer, Flag Football and Basketball Leagues! In addition, we have added a Youth Running Program which focuses on the health and wellness of 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders as they prepare for a 1-mile run on East's outside trail. As families prepare to return to school, they are looking for programs, activities and fun experiences that complement their schedules. As mentioned above, we are offering plenty of experiences for families to choose from! I am very excited to see the development of returning and new programs! As always, this is an exciting time in Elyria Parks and Recreations!
- **Kaleigh Plato, Recreation Supervisor**
  - We are wrapping up pool season in the next few weeks. Although I'd like to stay open longer we do not have the staffing available to do so. Session 3 of learn to swim and private lessons are currently happening and we are getting good reviews. It's great to see so many kids learning how to be safe in the water. Unfortunately, we were only able to offer lessons at East Pool for session 3 again due to staff availability. It is becoming increasingly more difficult to staff two pools efficiently while maintaining our standards for programming and open swim safety. I hope that next season is better and I will be brainstorming on the off season how to find more lifeguards and swim instructors.
  - We just finished our swim team season and we had more participants this summer than in the past. We also had a pool party for our swim team and junior instructors as an end of the season celebration and a thank you to our volunteers. Our special events like the dive in movies and DJ pool party at the pools are having good turn outs and everyone seems to like them.
  - Emma Basinski came on this season to oversee learn to swim, private lessons, and swim team. It is not an easy task, but Emma has been with us for many years as a lifeguard, instructor, and manager and did a great job running the program this season. We hope to have her back next season.
  - Summer adult softball is currently running with a Wednesday night Coed league and is going well. We have plans for a fall league in August and September.
  - I will be going on maternity leave soon, so I have been busy getting the ice rink, home school open gym, and fall softball ready for whoever will be overseeing those programs for me until I return.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: n/a**

Next meeting will be Thursday, September 12, 2024 at the West Recreation Center.  
(subject to change).

**ADJOURNMENT:**

  
Parks Board Chairman                      Parks Director

  
Secretary