



## SEPTEMBER 7, 2022 COUNCIL WORKSESSION MINUTES

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

**Mayor:** Jody Carney **Administrator:** Haley Lupton  
**Director of Finance:** Renee' Sonnett **Director of Law:** Paul-Michael La Fayette  
**Council Members:** President M. Terry, J. Eudaily, (arrived 7:41pm)  
K. Ferguson, F. Reed, J. Rucker, J. Sintz (arrived 6:40pm)

**Call to Order:** Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Ferguson motion to Amend the Agenda to remove Alley Closing 9/7/22 Work Session agenda; Mr. Rucker seconded.

### **Discussion:**

- Parks and Recreation Roundtable
- Ms. Granger introduced the P&R Committee: Katie, Justin, Eli and Denton Kitts
- Ms. Granger gave overview of vision, need for funding, and land acquisition
- Mr. Terry asked
  - What is overall vision for park system
  - What is vision for Pastime Park specifically
    - Mr. Kitts focus is putting everything into Pastime Park, could find other areas for other activities
    - Eli suggested housing activities in new developments or larger complex, which could open land in Pastime Park. Don't want to lost sight of the history of Pastime Park. Facilities need capital influx.
  - Mr. Reed wants an initial response from Council to give guidance.
  - Mr. Jaskiewicz pushed hard for a master plan, which fell apart. Has been picked back up and sees progress being made. President of PCABA. About six years ago, all sports org's got together to discuss needs to create sports complex. Identified need of 60 acres, want is about 80 acres and up to 100 acres. Utilize space for the baseball world, serves about 600 kids, are practicing/playing all over the village because Pastime Park

doesn't have the size. Really when you start planning, the needs for the community are so much bigger/greater than 60 acres.

- Mr. Terry asked if we remove t-ball/baseball from Pastime Park, can we move it all to one ballfield.
- Mr. Jaskiewicz, yes, it's the only approach. We can honor Baker Field, Kiser Field and make it the pinnacle for championship games.
- Mr. Reed asked about doubling kids in the short-term future, is the 100 acre estimate still hold with anticipated growth?
- Mr. Jaskiewicz, 100 yes.
- Mr. Reed asked about a joint sports complex, is it a viable possibility?
- Mr. Jaskiewicz has been discussed in the past. Primary purpose is to capitalize on areas that don't lie in VPC proper. Maybe capitalize by involving them. Joint venture is not simple.
- Mr. Terry the tax payers' burden of VPC residents would be subsidizing the JA school district. Don't know how to balance that and be good stewards.
- Mr. Sintz, we make it work with the Fire District.
- Mr. Jaskiewicz spoke to two different township trustees and the conversation was receptive. It's do-able but won't be simple.
- Justin asked it is possible to purchase the 100 acres?
- Mr. Terry openness to change on Pastime Park.
  - Mr. Sintz loves the central feel of Pastime Park, would like to maintain some of those things but move the campground to free up for other things
  - Ms. Granger campground is a considerable revenue generator. To potentially move the campground, how does that impact Steam threshers event, each decision has an equal counter balance.
  - Mr. Sintz envisions the campground being adjacent to the park, not in the park.
  - Mr. Sintz likes the idea of a ballfield staying in the park. I like the small town feel of an everything park.
  - Justin asked would one ballfield at the park fit your dream?
  - Mr. Sintz, yes.
  - Ms. Grangers personal vision likes the rustic nature, doesn't think it needs to be a fancy park. It's an important flavor. So hyper focused on doing everything there, with the additional acres at the Darby etc., it will free up that

pressure to doing everything at Pastime Park. Think more globally.

- Ms. Ferguson agrees with Mr. Sintz, keeping the small town feel of everything there. During summer during the day, are the ballfields utilized by kids on their bikes? Keeping at least one ballfield.
- Mr. Rucker opposed to getting rid of Steam threshers and camping. They go hand in hand. It is a unique park, wants to see that uniqueness maintained.
- Ms. Carney also loves the Steam threshers. Doesn't want to move Kiser Field, keep as the community baseball small town feel. Look for the acreage somewhere else. JASA also wants to form a soccer league. Safety is a concern.
- Mr. Sintz one of the things that becomes evident during events, is safety.
- Mr. Reed that's a consequence of having it as both a park and activity area. Would like to see Pastime Park be a park, not a fairgrounds.
- Mr. Rucker discussions on removable bollards.
- Ms. Granger is speed. Added speedbumps. We can revisit the discussion of bollards.
- Ms. Granger only one route to get people (traffic) where they need to be during a major event. Needs decisions made in order to plan forward.
- Ms. Carney possibly purchase property adjacent to the park for parking, keeping parking away from the ballfields.
- Eli has discussed adding both of those pieces of properties would allow us to decompress. Is it do-able?
- Mr. Terry fairgrounds are county run and not in the center of town. Would love to keep Steam threshers but not a tractor pull track in middle of Pastime Park. The reason there is 3 entrances is because there is a thing in the middle of it to get to the ball fields. Has no desire to have camping anywhere else. Would rather go through the process, this is our revenue stream, put a box around the revenue and use it into new park acquisition. Wants Steam threshers moved somewhere else. If we are adding, wants a reasonable approach. Happy to have festivals, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, not permanent. Changes that are permanent for activities are on the table to move. Wants campground revenue to be used to purchase land.
- Ms. Granger in the parks masterplan the consultant did point out, the park cannot be re-envisioned, because you have a once-a-week event that determines the park. Is

there an in-between point where we don't get rid of the Steam threshers event, move the pulling track without getting rid of the event.

- Guest 1 agree camping is a revenue but other towns don't have camping but have other sources of revenue. Where is the money going to come from for a "complex" when we are only 4,000 people. Doesn't think it's wrong that kids play at all different location, it's the feel of a community.
- Mr. Jaskiewicz t-ball kids are at old elementary school, means they have zero connection at Pastime Park. Long term plans should have started 10 years ago, we are at bursting point. I hope that you approach this with that mentality.
- Mr. Eudaily said there are grants ad opportunities.
- Mr. Sintz VPC the sports view is way beyond the village. The numbers are beyond the VPC boundaries.
- Guest 2 asked if removing ballfields, what would go in that space?
- Ms. Granger don't have a big enough pool, packed on a busy day, need to be thinking for the future, need more pool space. Can't increase if we don't have the space to put it in.
- Eli, we have a major issue with parking in Pastime Park. Safety issue. If we can decompress by relocating and not losing the feel of the Crown Jewel of PC.
- Guest 2 would get rid of camping. Doesn't enjoy the walking path anymore because it goes through the campground.
- Katie said people are asking for a dog park. Looked at the triangle option. Echo's what fellow committee members said.
- Mr. Terry until we have full plan for Pastime Park is very hesitant to spend capital, doesn't want to waste money. No matter what we do, there are going to be a ton of opinions and desires. We really need option 1, option 2, and option 3. Council needs options. Instead of spending capital money on improvement but spend it on a design?
- Mr. Sintz the options have to say what we are doing and what order we are going to do them.
- Ms. Granger when we discuss Jackson St., we don't know what Council has in mind for that land. We need feedback from Council.
- Mr. Rucker says there's not a lot of development we can do there.

- Mr. Sintz said to tell us what you want to do with that land.
- Mr. Reed asked if there is anything on the list that needs to be presented to council of possible issues that needs to be dealt with very soon i.e. the trials that need funding and vitally important to the community. And we need to discuss recreation, not just parks.
- Ms. Granger put the presentation together based upon what residents want and how it can happen based on those needs.
- Mr. Terry ask staff to start looking into funding opportunities for the sports complex. It's a crucial, we want to be good stewards but how could this possibly work, affording a dog park and 100-acre park.
- Mr. Reed, we have 100k
- Ms. Granger were awarded \$100,000; Columbus was also awarded \$100,000 and they are spending their dollar on the plan for Heritage Trail. The \$100,000 must be used on the Heritage Trail, probably engineering studies.
- Eli asked Mr. Rucker doesn't want to get rid of pulling track. Are there anyways to damage it if we put a dog park there?
- Mr. Rucker suggested contacting Steam threshers. Doesn't see a problem but would discuss.

- Events
- Heritage Trail
- Campground
- Land Use Planning

- 2022 Supplemental to include Park Inheritance
  - Ms. Granger Mr. Bob Converse left the Village \$10,000 for Pastime Park. Creating a monarch way-station with native plants and a rain-garden with memorial benches.
- Information regarding recent passage of Bond Ordinance/potential amendment
  - Ms. Sonnett council passed the bond ordinance to issue debt. Bond counsel reviewed reports through Madison County Auditors site, we have to pledge a certain amount of money if we are unable to pay back. Promise to the county ad our residents that we aren't going to fall short of our responsibilities.
  - Mr. Reed wants to know the timeline for issuance of these bonds? Still coming back to Council right?
  - Ms. Sonnet September 15<sup>th</sup> and will come to council on Monday.

- Mr. Terry understand it the 10mil rule is the amount of milage we have the ability to go and claim as out and what they are saying is what we're using goes for 20 years, you need to say, it's literally against the law to go over the 10mil. We think you should use 40 years just in case.
- Mr. Reed asked about investing \$10 million dollars in our existing facility, becomes a \$23.5 million dollar obligation to the Village when you multiply the payments out to 40 years.
- Ms. Sonnett we are not borrowing money, it's a collateral.
- Mr. Reed we're not going to issue bonds?
- Ms. Sonnett tried to explain and Mr. Reed kept cutting her off from finishing a sentence.
- Mr. Terry is basically the change of what we are going to vote on Monday
- Mr. Reed what's the longevity of that wastewater, 10million dollar investment.
- Mr. Terry no longer interested in debating the alternative route. I will be voting yes on this. It sounds like you are going to be voting no on this.
- Mr. Reed said don't take that as a given.
- Mr. Terry, all she is informing us of is that the discussion of 20 years is now 40.
- Ms. Sonnett municipal bonds will be here Monday
- Citizen Recognition Sign
  - Mr. Terry said we need to determine where, how, what on options.
  - Ms. Granger provided options.
    - Option 1 similar to London(least expensive)
    - Option 2 civic board
    - Replacing slat sign after rebranding
  - Mr. Terry asked what would you do
  - Ms. Granger thinks you could have a very attractive sign honor individuals, maybe between option 2 and the Huron Ohio sign.
  - Mr. Sintz likes the ability to rotate
  - Mr. Terry likes the Huron because it's consistent.
  - Ms. Granger likes it upon entering the community vs the park.
  - Mr. Jaskiewicz maybe coordinate with Darby Station when they put the sign back up.
  - Eli likes uniformity
  - Mr. Terry what is the policy lacking that will help us find the best solution for into the future . Clean up the timing, size, etc.?
  - Ms. Baldwin reminded about the Wayfinding with Union County Chamber of Commerce
- ~~Alley closing (Medici & Troyer)~~
- Update Streetscape options
  - Ms. Sonnett said no update. Broke it out on alternate plans with pricing. No estimate on the project at this time. Did a build out of cost.
    - Alternate 1 -

- Alternate 2 -
- Alternate 3 -
- Alternate 4 –
- Mr. Terry, will they bring it to us?
- Ms. Sonnett they will bring it to Council for decision after estimate is given. Hope to go to bid by next month.
- Mr. Sintz wants different light color; current is super bright.

Mr. Sintz motioned to adjourn: Mr. Eudaily seconded 8:40 pm