

## STILLWATER TOWNSHIP PARK COMMITTEE

May 10, 2021, 7:00 P.M. – via ZOOM

### REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Chairperson Vanessa Barvels, Park Manager Kelley Shantz, Park Committee Member Barb Stahlmann, Town Board Supervisors Bonnie Haines, Sheila-Marie Untiedt, Town Clerk Barbara Riehle and Deputy Clerk Jennifer Maes

1. **AGENDA** – Approval of the agenda as written. M/S/P Shantz/Stahlmann (3 ayes)
2. **MINUTES** – Approval of the minutes from April 12. M/S/P Stahlmann/Shantz (3 ayes)
3. **PARK & TRAIL CONCERNS:**

#### **Otto Berg Park**

##### **Well Damage**

During the Spring Clean-Up event on April 24, a resident accidentally backed over the well head causing significant damage for which the resident is willing to pay. Mantyla was immediately contacted and arrived right away. Park Manager Kelley Shantz is working with Mantyla to schedule repair. Mantyla suggested two options. One is an upgraded system which would make it unnecessary to turn the water off over the winter but would remove the drinking fountain. The other is to make repairs returning the system to what it was pre-accident. The park committee favors the second option. Park Manager Shantz will have price quotes available by the time the Board meets Thursday, May 13.

##### **Playground Equipment Repair**

The rocking snail equipment at the playground broke and has been removed pending repair or replacement. Park Manager Shantz has contacted the company which originally installed it and has received a parts list. He will follow-up with checking costs and arranging repair. In the meantime, the broken snail is being stored in a temporary location that is not entirely secure. Committee Member Vanessa Barvels volunteered to assist him with moving the unwieldy snail to a more secure location during the week ending May 15.

The sport court is degrading, and the tiles are shifting, making it difficult to replace broken or damaged tiles and causing the keys to fail to line-up with the baskets. Clerk Barbara Riehle volunteered to locate contact information for the original installer to check warranty status and discuss repair or replacement options and costs.

The basketball nets are installed as they were never removed over the winter. The committee agreed that there is no need to store them away over the winter, as residents may wish to use them on occasion during a mild, snowless, winter day.

### **Arcola Heights Park**

#### **Park Tour**

On May 4, the Park Committee toured this park and Little Carnelian Park. Present were: Park Manager Kelley Shantz, Park Committee Members Vanessa Barvels and Barb Stahlmann, Board Supervisors Bonnie Haines and Tim Sinclair, and Deputy Clerk Jennifer Maes

#### **Mowing**

Last September, the park was brush-hogged and trimmed up and is currently looking quite nice. Some Amur Maples remain, and Park Manager Kelley Shantz would like to contact STS to see if there is anyone available to mow a couple times over the summer to keep the trails intact and retard the spread of invasives. Otherwise, Valley Green could do the mowing for a price.

#### **Posts and Chains**

Some of the posts are loose, and some of the chains are getting too tight on the trees. Park Manager Shantz will handle securing the posts and lengthening the chains.

#### **No Parking Signs**

The No Parking signs at the entrance of the park are getting old and faded. The Park Committee agreed that replacing them would be advantageous by making the first impression of the park that of a well-maintained and well-used space. Park Manager Shantz will contact Miller regarding new signs.

#### **Possible Land Purchase**

Past complaints about this park were discussed during the tour. One option being considered is to sell this park and buy land to install another park, essentially moving the park to another location. Deputy Clerk Jennifer Maes will again contact Attorney Soren Mattick to discuss the logistics and practicality of this option. There have been no recent complaints.

### **Little Carnelian Park**

#### **Dogs**

A nearby resident brought to the Township's attention that dogs have been seen in this park and make their way onto the resident's property. There are two very clear signs at the trail head that dogs are not allowed.

**Fence Repair**

The same resident is concerned with the fence that was damaged quite some time ago when a tree fell on it. The fence is still in need of repair. Park Manager Kelley Shantz believes this may be something we can fix ourselves and will investigate garnering the same chain linking that was originally used. Clerk Barbara Riehle volunteered to help track down that information. The fence will be scheduled to be fixed or replaced this year over the summer.

**Porta Potty Delivery**

There was some confusion this Spring when the porta-potty was delivered to the trail head. Apparently, Air Fresh tried to deliver it to a neighboring resident. It is where it belongs now, and the Committee believes it was likely a new driver, as the location has not changed, and the unit has been seasonally installed and removed for years.

**Washout Issues**

There are two locations along the trail, about a third of the way down and near the bottom, where some washout has occurred. Park Manager Kelley Shantz suggested trap rock or at least some regrading. He will contact STS or Miller to arrange repair.

**Dirty Sign**

The sign at the bottom of the trail is looking dirty and dingy. Park Committee member Vanessa Barvels volunteered to clean it up.

**Trimming/Thinning of Trees**

Some light trimming could be done along the trail, and some cedar trees near the shore could be removed to improve the view from the benches. Park Manager Kelley Shantz will add it to the list for STS or whomever may be hired to do other trimming of Township parks.

**Otchipwe Prairie Trail**

No report at this time. The Park Committee will tour this park and Quarry Avenue Trail on Tuesday, June 1 at 6:30 P.M.

**Curtiss Hills Trail** – No report

**Quarry Avenue Trail** - No report

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

**No Trespassing Signs near Fairy Falls**

The No Trespassing signs at 97th Street near Fairy Falls Park have been ordered and stakes have been placed at the proper location for installation once received.

**Annual Picnic**

Planning continued for the Annual Township Picnic to be held at Otto Berg Park on August 22 from Noon until 3:00 P.M. So far, the Police and Fire Department have been booked for a demonstration, the Washington County Historical Society has tentatively agreed to make a presentation and musician Mark Olien has volunteered to make a return appearance. Park Manager Kelley Shantz will contact Dave Johnson to ask to borrow the grill. Supervisor Bonnie Haines suggested contacting the face painter. Clerk Barbara Riehle and Deputy Clerk Jennifer Maes will contact her. More planning will be done over the coming months.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

**Park Manager Candidate**

A candidate for the open Park Manager position was invited to attend this meeting to get a feel for the job. The candidate will also attend the Town Board Meeting on Thursday, May 13. Town Supervisor Sheila-Marie Untiedt suggested that the Board formally interview at that time. As the candidate had already left the meeting, Clerk Barbara Riehle agreed to contact the candidate to inform him that the interview will take place.

**Eagle Scout Project at Town Hall**

Committee Member Barb Stahlmann contacted a Scout Master who has Scouts that may be interested in removing and replacing the bushes around the Township Hall. Township Supervisor Sheila-Marie Untiedt plans to use Valley Green if the Scouts are not interested in pulling the old bushes. There is also a need for a permanent surround to be built around the Porta-Potty to keep it from blowing over during high winds. Committee Member Stahlmann will meet again with the Scout Master to present these options and request a proposal.

6. **TOWN BOARD LIAISON REPORT** – Supervisor Bonnie Haines reported

7. **PARK MANAGER REPORT** - Park Manager Kelley Shantz reported

8. **NEXT MEETING** – June 14, 7:00 P.M. via ZOOM

June 1, 6:30 P.M. a park tour meeting will be held beginning with Quarry Avenue Trail and moving to Otchipwe Prairie Trail.

9. **ADJOURNMENT** – Meeting adjourned 8:21 P.M. M/S/P Shantz/Stahlmann (3 ayes)

Submitted by: Deputy Clerk, Jennifer Maes