**Parks and Recreation Board Meeting**

**Monday November 14, 2022**

**Call to Order and Roll Call** – Susie Highley

**Present:** Justin Bastin, Branden Williams, Catherine Witsman, Susie Highley

**Absent:** Kim Pearson

**Also Present:** Tim Gropp, Ryan Crum, Niki Jones, Mary Harmon (resident)

**Meeting Minutes –**

Minutes from September 12, 2022 will be carried over at the next meeting for approval due to lack of quorum to approve from members present.

**Old Business –**

1. **Park Impact Fee Update – Ryan Crum**

A committee has been formed and set to meet. As of the end of October, $957,000 has been collected.

1. **5 Year Master Plan Update – Ryan Crum**

The Town can begin projects with funds coming in. A draft will need to be formed at the January meeting to send to the State that is due in February.

1. **Story walk Update – Niki Jones**

In collaboration with the Fortville-Vernon Township Library, the concern from the last meeting of installing a “Start” sign at the beginning of Storywalk has been addressed. The library ordered and paid for a sign, and it has already been installed. It has fallen a few times, so we will look into a way to improve it.

**New Business -**

1. **Old School Park Design Concepts**

Mr. Gropp explained that part of the ARPA funds would fund improvements at Old School Park and displayed new park layout concept designs. The park will be shifting due to a roundabout being installed in the future on the SE side. The new layouts address parking, a walking path, baseball seating/stands and new playground equipment. It also addresses concerns regarding the layout of a new shelter, basketball court, baseball field and tennis courts in addition to adding new smaller activities such as cornhole, horseshoes, etc. Members had a lot of discussion and input as to what they liked and did not like. There was much discussion on the future of the baseball diamond and the use and cost. Mr. Gropp indicated that in the Park Master Plan we will look to have a future park with additional diamonds which could replace this one. It was noted that this diamond is not regulation size and is made to fit the available space. Mr. Gropp stated with McCord Square coming online the vision is to see this park more interactive for the broader community. The Park Board directed staff to go back and update the concept based on the discussion. Staff indicated it will bring back an updated design to the next meeting.

1. **2023 Meeting Schedule**

The board agreed to keep the current meeting schedule of the second Monday of every other month at 6pm. This would include; January 9th, March 13th, May 8th, July 10th, September 11th and November 13th.

Mr. Bastin made a motion to approve the 2023 meeting schedule as presented. Ms. Witsman seconded and passed 3/0.

**Events:**

Mr. Gropp informed the board that the Christmas lights at Town Hall and Old School Park have been installed and the Tree Lighting and Holiday Celebration event will be held on December 2nd at 6pm at Town Hall Park.

Ms. Jones gave an update on Trunk or Treat. Approximately 30-35 trunks participated, and it was the largest Trunk or Treat the Town has had and was a great success. There were contests, prizes and lots of creative trunk creations and designs. The Town received lots of positive feedback from residents. It did start to rain close to the end, but it was timed perfectly as trunks were starting to run out of candy due to the huge attendance. We may want to move the event to a Saturday next year and plan for a bigger crowd. Outlook Church was very hospitable in regards to hosting the event in their parking lot.

**Public Comment:**

None.

**Next Meeting –** January 9, 2023, at 6:00pm

**Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Bastin. Ms. Witsman seconded and passed 3/0.