Parks and Recreation Committee

September 24, 2018

Present: Committee Members Baltzell, Buxton and Scott; Council Members Clausen, Fleck, Larmore, and Sovinski; Safety-Service Director Hitchcock; Mayor Hazel; Auditor Strawn; Public Works Director Wolfe; Molli Schleucher, Bryson Trust; Paul Schwartz, Bryson Trustee; and Bill Kincaid, The Daily Standard.

Committee Chairman Baltzell called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm for discussion of potential grant and playground equipment in the new Bryson Park District. Mayor Hazel explained GameTime has a grant program that pays 50% of playground equipment. The Bryson Trust has agreed to pay the remaining 50%. Mayor Hazel stated it is an all-inclusive playground set that could be used by both individuals with handicaps and without. This would be a tremendous boost to the Bryson Parks District. The installation and the turf is not included in the discount. Molli Schleucher explained the Bryson Trustees are supportive of this, pending the approval of the Probate Court Judge Mary Pat Zitter. She stated she does not see a problem with the approval since this equipment is for Mercelina Park and a playground for children, which is exactly what the Bryson Trust is about.

CM Sovinski asked if this equipment would need to go out to competitive bid. Joe Wolfe responded GameTime is on the State Bid program, which the City is a part of.

Molli Schleucher introduced Paul Schwartz, Bryson Trust Trustee. She explained Paul has toured the various Bryson infrastructures supported by the trust and is very knowledgeable of what is going on with the Bryson Trust. Mayor Hazel asked Mr. Schwartz if the Bryson Trust would be able to write a check directly to GameTime. Mrs. Schwartz replied yes, they would.

Joe Wolfe explained the playground equipment is normally paid for upfront. The installation is paid for when it is ready for construction. The upfront payment for this would be $105,000.00. Molli Schleucher stated the Bryson Trust is willing to pay direct, but wants a guarantee from the company that the construction will be in the very near future, not years from now.

Director Hitchcock explained the new all-inclusive playground equipment will be built just to the north of the splash pad.

CM Buxton made a recommendation to bring a voice acclamation vote to Council for approval, seconded by CM Scott. Motion passed with a voice acclamation vote 3-0 Aye.

Director Hitchcock requested the Council members visit the amphitheater site to get their opinion on the seating layout. It has been professionally assessed for general use, but there has been concerns raised that the seating is too close to the stage. CM Larmore stated it may not be so much a design issue, but a perception issue that the seating is too close.

CM Sovinski stated Fort Recovery has had their amphitheater for several years, and has made adjustments. He suggested they would be a good venue to get a recommendation.

Director Hitchcock stated the seating has been designed based on the existing speaker system. If the bands bring their own system, it may seem too loud. Mayor Hazel stated the existing speaker system is designed for public speaking, not for a band concert. CM Larmore stated this makes it more imperative that it be figured out if the seating needs to be adjusted.

CM Sovinski stated over-amplification should not be encouraged. CM Scott recommended a sound expert be called in to determine if it is too close. Mayor Hazel explained it was designed by professionals. CM Fleck stated a good band’s sound coordinator can tune it up or down.

Committee Chairman Baltzell adjourned the meeting at 6:56 pm.

Submitted by Joan S. Wurster, Clerk of Council