Town of Newburgh
Parks Board
Minutes March 7, 2019

Members Present:
Mary Ann Wilsbacher, Ron Keller, Randy Wheeler, Kevin Reine, Wanda Kavanaugh

Advisory Board Members Present:
Susan Melfi, Shirley Moore

Administrative Present:
Andrea Balboni, Administrative Assistant; Attorney Raymond Dudlo, Legal; Allyson Claybourn, Town Council Liaison; Christy Powell, Town Manager

Minutes:
MOTION was made by Randy Wheeler to accept the February 7, 2019 minutes
SECONDED by Wanda Kavanaugh
DISCUSSION: None
Vote: 5 aye/0 nay

Citizens Present:
Barbara Zellerino
Carol Hicks-Schaefer

Petitions and Comments from Citizens Present:
None

New Business
Arts Commission – Land Water Conservation Fund
Barbara Zellerino spoke on behalf of the Arts Commission and referenced the handout that was given to Parks Board and made available to the public. Ms. Zellerino stated that she would like to discuss four talking points with the Parks Board on the proposed Riverfront Pavilion:

1. Requirements of the Department of Natural Resources Land Water Conservation Fund grant
2. Explaining some possible adjustments to the site location
3. Asking for the Parks Board blessing to move forward
4. Asking for the Parks Board blessing to pursue use of a large donation through naming rights of the facility

Barbara Zellerino stated that the Arts Commission did not receive the tourism grant that they had originally applied for which is why they are now considering the Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The tourism grant was denied based on the fact that they believed the Riverfront Pavilion would attract people but were looking for projects that brought in people from other states and they believed that this project was more regional.

Department of Natural Resources Land Water Conservation funding is available and the Riverfront Pavilion would be a project that could receive funding. Ms. Zellerino stated that they have spoken with DNR and was highly encouraged to apply for the grant stating that they have a lot of available funding for outdoor recreational projects and have not turned a project away in three years.

After speaking with DNR and reading through the Land Water Conservation Fund application there are two things that need to be done:

1. Bury all electrical wires – requirement states that there cannot be any visible electrical wires within the park. Ms. Zellerino would like to bury all wires within the park on the north and south side.

2. Handicap accessibility. Ms. Zellerino stated that there has always been a plan for handicap accessibility and the proposed pavilion is handicap accessible but the location of the bathrooms across the street makes their access non-accessible. The overall proposed amphitheater had accessible bathrooms being built in a later phase but would need to be built along with the amphitheater.

These two projects will need to be added into the grant application to move forward with the grant. The Arts Commission knows how much it would be to build the bathrooms and they are currently working with the Town staff and Vectren to bury the lines out at Lock and Dam Park. The two projects will mean an increased expense and one way they are looking to cover that expense is naming rights.

The Arts Commission stated that they have a potential donor interested in donating to cover the extra cost but would like naming rights on the amphitheater. The Arts Commission met with this donor at the site and while meeting with the donor realized that if they moved the proposed pavilion a little over (towards the gazebo) they would have a better line of site and could pick up some additional parking on the north side of the park. Currently the placement of the proposed pavilion has guests sitting on the hill looking at the lift station. Moving everything over would still allow ample seating and allow for a view of the river. Arts Commission will be looking into the cost associated with moving the proposed site over.

Another part of the LWCF package is making sure the park is a park in perpetuity; which Lock and Dam Park already is per the deed restrictions. The grant needs to be turned in by June 1, 2019 and by late September/early October they will know if the received the grant or not. If the grant is awarded they would need to move forward on doing an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) study. The grant is a federal grant that is run by the State of Indiana. If the grant is approved by the State it is sent to the federal government for their stamp of approval and then any additional studies or requirements must be done. Due to the multiple steps involved, if the grant is awarded, construction would not start until the summer of 2020.

Allyson Claybourn stated that she was informed that the section where the proposed amphitheater is currently carved out had the deed restrictions removed. Attorney Raymond Dudlo stated that that information is correct, that the proposed site was once a proposed site for a Town Hall building. Christy Powell stated that the newer proposed site has the restrictions but the original proposed site was removed in a land exchange when they thought of building Town Hall there. That site is no longer needed for Town Hall so adding that restriction back on would not be an issue.

Randy Wheeler asked if the electric company is willing to work with the Town on burying the lines. Ms. Zellerino stated that they are still in the early process of working with Vectren and they do not know all the details yet. Mr. Wheeler stated that he heard the new head of the company speak and they are looking to be involved within the community and that maybe this would be an opportunity for them to get involved and a naming rights situation could even be given to them.

Allyson Claybourn asked what the additional amount is that needs to be raised. Ms. Zellerino stated that with the one hundred fifty thousand dollar ($150,000.00) naming rights and trimming the budget by seventeen thousand dollars ($17,000.00) they would not have to raise any additional funds. Ms. Claybourn asked how long the naming rights would last; Ms. Zellerino stated that it has not been discussed yet. Mr. Dudlo asked if the naming rights would interfere with any existing pledges, Ms. Zellerino stated that it would not. Ms. Claybourn asked how the name would be displayed, Ms. Zellerino stated that there are three possible areas that the name could be displayed but those have not been discussed with the potential donor. Ms. Claybourn asked if they would have a commitment on the naming rights before they apply to the grant and Ms. Zellerino stated that they would. Ms. Claybourn asked what would happen if the naming rights fell through and Ms. Zellerino stated that they spoke to all the donors after the first grant was denied and that they are all still in, they do not want their money back - they want an amphitheater. There has been discussion on building the project in stages, going to other big name donors but they honestly have not put too much thought into it because the donor is a very strong donor and is very positive about this project. Ms. Claybourn asked what the cutoff date would be to

hear from the potential donor to start applying for the grant. Ms. Zellerino stated that they can start applying for the grant now; they have the two hundred fifty thousand ($250,000.00) matching funds. Ms. Zellerino explained the point process within the grant and how they score the grants to determine the amount of funding that is received. To have the lines buried ahead of time would give them a higher score but as long as the funding requested would allow the lines to be buried they could still be considered.

Allyson Claybourn stated that she wants to voice her concerns on the project if it ends up requiring an additional $150,000.00 in private donations at the same time that private donations would be needed to fund the Fortress of Fun and the Newburgh Community Pool, two structures within the Newburgh Parks System that are already in existence and part of the Parks Master Plan. Ms. Claybourn wants to make sure that the Parks Board and the Town are being sensitive to that and that there are not too many irons in the fire. Ms. Claybourn thinks the naming rights is a great option, if it moves forward, but if it does not happen and additional money is needed at the same time money is needed for the pool and Fortress of Fun it would be a lot going on.

Raymond Dudlo asked what the Arts Commission needs of the Parks Board. Ms. Zellerino stated that the LWCF application must go through the Parks Board. Andrea Balboni stated that per DNR all LWCF requests must be signed by the Parks Board President. Mr. Dudlo asked that as part of the approval process does that include site relocation or simply asking for approval to move forward with the grant request and all changes pending. Ms. Zellerino stated that the request is to just move forward with the grant request. There are many months between now and June 1, 2019 in which they will know the status of the naming rights, the cost (if any) to move the site over and any additional costs or changes. The relocation issue does not need to be resolved right now and is not part of the grant request.

MOTION was made by Wanda Kavanaugh to approve the Arts Commission request to apply for the Land Water Conservation Fund grant through Department of Natural Resources
SECONDED by Randy Wheeler
DISCUSSION: Mary Ann Wilsbacher stated that burying the electrical lines is a great thing for the park. It would allow for kids to fly kites and to increase the look of the area. Ms. Wilsbacher asked if the naming rights donor is just interested in the amphitheater or could they be a potential donor to other park projects. Ms. Zellerino stated that the discussions have just been about the amphitheater at this time but the potential donor has had some great fundraising ideas that would be used for other park projects.

Allyson Claybourn asked why the Parks Board cannot know the identity of the potential donor. Ms. Zellerino stated that this potential donor asked to be anonymous until after everything is finalized. Christy Powell stated that she knows the potential donor personally and has talked to this person about the pool and about Lou Dennis Community Park.

Christy Powell stated that she agrees with a lot of what Allyson said about making sure we are focused and our priorities are on Lou Dennis Park but that Lou Dennis Park is a huge project that we are not ready to fund, even if there was a grant that existing for a four million dollar pool. This Riverfront Pavilion project is a positive project that will hopefully put some revitalization within the parks system. Ms. Zellerino stated that the pavilion/amphitheater could even be used to host fundraisers for the pool. Ms. Powell stated that the donations received for the pavilion/amphitheater were given by people that are passionate about the amphitheater and that there will be people just as passionate about the pool that will donate to the pool.

Andrea Balboni stated that the LWCF grant can be applied for again. When applying for the LWCF grant you need to show substantial completion on any previously awarded LWCF projects. If and when the time comes for the Parks Board to apply for LWCF for the pool, the amphitheater should be complete, so receiving the grant should not be an issue. The Town of Newburgh currently has two parks that already have LWCF, Lou Dennis Community Park and AMAX. Ms. Zellerino stated that the most you can apply for through LWCF is $250,000.00; which Christy Powell pointed out is not enough to build a new pool.

Allyson Claybourn stated that she has two points she would like to address from the hundreds of people that she spoke with within the community over the past year. The pool and the Fortress of Fun have been put on the back burner for a long time and people see the amphitheater being built as another instance of putting those facilities on the back burner for something else. Something else that is not even in existence when we have a park now that desperately needs attention for our kids, a place to go, a place to teach our kids how to swim, for people in the community that have nowhere else to go for those type of recreational activities. Ms. Claybourn stated not everyone that uses the community services have tens of thousands of dollars to donate to the amphitheater or even the pool; that is why it requires support from the Town and the public. Ms. Claybourn stated that the amphitheater is a great project and can inject a lot of enthusiasm into the community and do a lot of good things but we should make sure that we are taking a close look in case this project requires another $150,000.00 in additional funding. For her second point, Ms. Claybourn asked that if the Parks Board votes for the motion to be approved that it be contingent on the naming rights going through. If the grant does not go through that would allow the Parks Board to take a second look at the project and make sure we are not fundraising for two projects at once. Ms. Claybourn is not saying this to criticize the amphitheater or the amphitheater project but believes people see this as another instance of delaying attention to our parks and facilities that already exist and are wanted and needed by people within the community.

Christy Powell stated that she thinks it is unfortunate that the perception out there is that the pool and park has been on the back burner. They have not been since she has taken office. The Town is dealing with aging infrastructure, which means sometimes it breaks, it dies, it falls into a state of disrepair that you cannot get out of and they are trying to change that perception. Ms. Powell has seen the Parks Board would diligently to find the funding, the grants, the means to hold the park together to the point that all the small fixes stopped working. Mrs. Powell stated that they knew they would eventually be in the position, they are here now and that the outcry means people are talking about it and they know about it, negative or positive they are talking about it. Two years ago, we were talking about the aging pool and no one was listening. Mary Ann Wilsbacher stated that there were several public forums for the Master Plan and few people showed up.

Andrea Balboni stated that to be clear, the proposed amphitheater is in the Parks Master Plan, it is one of the top ten priorities within the plan. Allyson Claybourn stated that within the Master Plan the pool would still be open so to be fair to the citizens of the community making the pool a priority is important. Mrs. Claybourn stated that if the Parks Board and Town knew they would be in this position, why was a capital fundraiser not started to raise funds for the playground or the pool? Those are the questions that she hears that she feels she needs to pass along. Christy Powell stated that small fundraising is not going to happen and it is going to take something major.

Mary Ann Wilsbacher stated that our Parks System in general needs help but it is a little frustrating to hear of the complaints when just a year ago we were asking them to come to us, to tell us what they wanted to see within the parks system. Allyson Claybourn asked if we went to them, she stated that she knocked on over 3,000 doors and talked to hundreds of people that way and it was overwhelming. Ms. Claybourn stated that she knows the position that the Parks Board is in financially but that while the two projects are separate she thinks you could be competing for the same dollars and it would be very difficult to fundraise for all the projects at the same time. Ms. Claybourn stated that she is not a voting member but again asked that the motion be changed to state that if the naming rights do not go through that they take a second look at applying for the grant.

Mary Ann Wilsbacher asked Mrs. Zellerino if the naming rights do not go through, will they still apply for the grant. Mrs. Zellerino stated that they would, they would have to move some stuff around because they have to bury the wires and would be given less points for the bathrooms being across the street. Mrs. Zellerino stated just as passionate as people are about the pool, they have people just as passionate about the amphitheater. Bringing the Evansville Symphony out in the open air, weddings, local talent; there is a need.

Carol Hicks Schaefer asked that the Parks Board do not put any constraints on them when it comes to applying for the grant. They only have two and a half months to put it together and if they don't get there then they will

know they tried. Carol talked about the draw of the local amphitheater and how it will bring economic development to the area. Andrea Balboni stated that at the Indiana Parks and Recreation Conference she and Christy attended a cost recovery workshop that stated quality of life amenities are important but having things within your parks system that covers those quality of life services is important. Charging a rental rate for the amphitheater could help offset the costs of a pool and the fortress. Mrs. Zellerino stated that within their research they included the Lockmaster Cottages and the hopes of increasing those rentals by having events at the amphitheater, stating ideally the amphitheater could be used April through October, if not longer. Ms. Claybourn asked if there would be events for children at the amphitheater, Mrs. Zellerino answered yes, Ms. Claybourn asked what would be offered. Ms. Zellerino stated that they did a survey over the summer at the Farmers Market and people suggested story times, kite contest, children's musicals, family movie nights, and dance recitals.

Allyson Claybourn asked who would be responsible for organizing the events. Mrs. Zellerino stated that the Arts Commission, Historic Newburgh, Inc. and Warrick Tourism would be advertising. Mrs. Claybourn asked who would be developing those types of events, booking those events – would it just be relaying on advertisement and hoping that people come to us or will there be an outreach by Arts Commission. Mrs. Zellerino stated that there is a whole marketing plan and that they spoke with about five other amphitheaters to see what they did and what they liked and what they did not like. Mrs. Claybourn would like to know who would be responsible for seeking out the artists; Mrs. Zellerino stated that some of it will come through rentals other would be put together through Arts Commission. Mrs. Zellerino stated that they have contacts through promoters and some would rent the amphitheater and others might be hosted by Arts Commission and admission would be charged. They have made a lot of contacts through talking to other amphitheaters.

Christy Powell wanted to clarify that Arts Commission will be in charge of advertising and that Town staff would be in charge of keeping track of the rentals and charging for rentals. Mrs. Powell stated that her biggest concern is parking and safety of walking people walking across the streets. Mrs. Powell stated that if this grant is approved that they will need to meet and talk about safety requirements and how to slow people down in that area.

Randy Wheeler stated that the discussion was a good refresher but is unsure why it needs to come back to the Parks Board since they have already given the go ahead once and so has Town Council. Mr. Wheeler stated that this is a continuum of that approval, a bump in the road. Christy Powell stated that they need Parks Board permission to apply for the grant under the Parks Board name; the last grant did not require that. Christy Powell stated that the Parks Board and Town Council have been pretty hands off, this has been largely done through Arts Commission and volunteers.

Vote: 5 aye/0 nay

Wanda Kavanaugh stated that this project has nothing to do with the pool and is not in conflict with the pool. Ms. Kavanaugh stated that everyone wants a pool and she does not like the implications that the Parks Board was not working to keep that pool going. The Parks Board worked very hard to keep that pool going but it died.

Randy Wheeler stated that the Arts Commission has done an amazing job on getting all their donors and all their supporters.

REPORTS:

Town Council Liaison:

No Report

Facilities Coordinator:

Andrea Balboni stated that all rental paperwork and rental keys are now in her office. They have been moved out of the Clerk-Treasurers Office and now the whole process will take place in her office. Christy and Andrea

have been discussing rentals and the holiday seasons, weekends, cancellations and trying to work something out where we have more rules, higher rates and/or rental minimums moving forward to stop some of the issues that are occurring. Tavi Wydicks got a new software system that will allow her to take credit card payments. That program will roll out for a while and then they will see if rentals could be charged through the credit card system and/or all damage deposits be held on a credit card to ensure we get money for damages, no shows or last minute cancellations.

Park Area Reports

Rivertown Trail:

Christy Powell stated that Claire Bosma is the liaison between the Rivertown Trail Committee and Warrick Trails and will be reporting on Monday the renovation to the old Nix gas station at the Aurand Trailhead. The bathroom will be painted with a possible nursing station added on. They are also purposing a shelter off the east end. Claire will be presenting an artist rendition and Mrs. Powell will make sure the Parks Board get a copy.

Lou Dennis Community Park:

Ron Keller gave a list of some of the issues he noticed around the park: missing clamps on the volleyball net, drain near the end of the shelter is clogged with leaves, swings over top and knotted, dead tree at the end of the park that needs to be addressed and the metal picnic table has a few bolts loose. Mr. Keller also stated that the bathrooms were not open. Andrea Balboni stated that the bathrooms have been closed due to freezing conditions.

Old Lock and Dam Park (South Side) – Boat Dock & Old Lock and Dam Building No. 47

Randy Wheeler read a quote from a news article in regard to the sledding accident into record:
A woman charged in a deadly sledding crash last year in Warrick County has been sentenced. 21-year old Galina White received two years in prison and six months' probation. She pleaded guilty to a driving under the influence and having a prior conviction. Police say Witte was driving in Newburgh when she hit and killed 16-year old Davis Collier who was sledding in January of 2018. A toxicology report showed Witte had THC along with four substances in her blood at the time of the crash.

Old Lock and Dam Park (North Side) – Cottages, Log Cabin, Gazebo, Little Red Brick House

Kevin Reine stated that the cottages look good, all the issues he has mentioned in previous meetings has been fixed. There are two windows out in the Log Cabin. Andrea Balboni stated that there was only one the other day and when she went to check on the flooding out at Old Lock and Dam Park she saw the second. Gerald Bowser is looking into getting windows for the cabin.

Indian Hill Overlook:

Wanda Kavanaugh stated that everything looks good except for the sink hole. Christy Powell stated that they will be putting a camera down the hole soon to see if they can figure out why it keeps opening up.

Allyson Claybourn asked if we have a time frame on when the property exchange will be finalized. Christy Powell stated that the last time she talked to the Army Corps of Engineers they were apologetic but that at this point it can be anywhere from six months to two years. Army Corps of Engineers has their process and we just have to be patient. Ms. Powell stated that they do think that they will allow for Warrick Trails to put a trail head in the park. Ms. Claybourn asked about the invasive species and Ms. Powell stated that we cannot do anything since it is still federal land. Ms. Claybourn asked that once the land is turned over to the Town is there a plan to address the invasive species. Mary Ann Wilsbacher stated that Park Pals has volunteers to take down the invasive species and once they have been removed bigger machines would need to be brought in. Christy Powell stated that they are working with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Purdue Extension Office. The NRCS declared the area to be a Certified Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA). Christy Powell stated that we do not have an exact plan yet, but before they proceed they need to figure out what they want up there. Allyson Claybourn stated that since we

have time, it would be great to get a plan in place and once the land is ours, we can tackle the issue. Mary Ann Wilsbacher stated that once it gets warmer they should make a plan to go up there to discuss what they would like to see happen to that property.

Andrea Balboni stated that during the Parks and Recreation Conference she spoke to a Parks Director and not only do they have a 5-Year Master Plan they have Master Plans for each of their parks. So they have their top ten priorities set in the 5-Year Plan but they then have their individual plans for each park that allows them to get more into detail about what is needed at each park. Ms. Balboni stated that she would eventually like to get a plan for each of our parks. Christy Powell stated that when she first started Parks Board would meet at each park and discuss the park. Discussion was had on starting that up again. Ms. Balboni also stated that since she has been with the Town each the Board members have reported on the same park, maybe the members should switch up the parks each year to allow each member to get to know each of the Town's seven parks.

Veterans Monument:
No Report

AMAX Fields:
Andrea Balboni stated that yearly letters from the leagues should be coming in soon.

Kiwanis Community Park:
No Report

Committee Reports
Rivertown Trail 5K:
Kevin Reine stated they have a few sponsors and thirty seven people are signed up for the race so far. Andrea Balboni stated that she worked with the Town's health insurance and for each employee that signs up gets points on their wellness account that takes money off their deductible.

Park Pals:
Mary Ann Wilsbacher stated that they had their annual meeting, there were six people in attendance along with the University of Southern Indiana class and the meeting went well.

Park Pals account balance: $4,450.51 (includes Ring in Spring sponsorship money)

The Ring in Spring Tea and Style Show will be on March 16, 2019 and Ms. Wilsbacher gave event details to the Parks Board.

Fortress of Fun account balance: $5,786.39

Emerald Ash Borer account balance: $1,212.60

Pool Expense account balance: $565.17

Unfinished Business:
Allyson Claybourn asked when the pool survey results could be shared. Christy Powell stated that once they are looked over by the professor and the Town gets the final results, those will be shared with the public.

Announcements:
None

Adjourn:
MOTION was made by Randy Wheeler to adjourn

SECONDED by Kevin Reine
DISCUSSION: None
VOTE: 5 aye/0 nay

Next regular meeting will be **Thursday, April 4, 2019** at 6:00PM.

Mary Ann Wibbenmeyer
President 4-4-19

Recorder