

Committee of the Whole
May 8, 2017

Present: President King; Council Members Buxton, Fleck, Larmore, LeJeune, Scott and Sovinski; Mayor Hazel; Director Hitchcock; Auditor Strawn; Law Director Moore; Donna Grube, Auglaize-Mercer CVB; and Bill Kincaid, The Daily Standard.

President King called the meeting to order at 6:16 pm for discussion of for-profit events in City Parks.

CM Scott stated there needs to be fairness across the board with stipulations for all events.

Director Hitchcock explained the City's insurance company informed him that a certificate of insurance with the City of Celina as an additional insurer is needed for all events using the parks. He suggested any events be requested and approved annually by Ordinance.

CM Sovinski stated what he can see as an issue is the US 127 garage sale vendors. Director Hitchcock explained that event is coordinated by one person. The vendors pay him, and he pays the City a portion of his proceeds.

Law Director Moore stated the City has tax exemption status that it could use if a for-profit entity would occupy the parks for 7 consecutive days in a month, or 15 days total for the month. He suggested general rules for use of City-owned facilities be approved.

CM LeJeune stated the Grand Lake Marathon is an event that is very good for Celina. He believes the City needs to be careful of what is permitted, with concern of how the property will be cared for.

Mayor Hazel stated the Bryson Trust has been gracious with funding eight acres of the park ground. Their immediate concern is what they have agreed to be constructed on the ground. This will not prevent the City to allow events to utilize the grounds. The concern is where Council wants to allow alcohol to be served.

CM LeJeune further stated the Public Works Department should not be overburdened by clean up after events and we need to be considerate to the residents around the park area.

CM Sovinski stated the City needs to come up with an application, with tiered levels of use and a fee schedule. Mayor Hazel stated there is a whole range on the type of entities wanting to come into the park, and we need to establish how the bar needs to be set for the public good. CM Sovinski stated establishment of a priority list needs to be established. CM Scott stated a draft needs to be created and brought to council for further review.

Director Hitchcock stated Kamp Kazoo is being held at Eastview Park beginning in June and we need to get something established as soon as possible. Administration will require at a minimum they provide a Certificate of Insurance.

CM LeJeune stated the Kamp Kazoo and the Grand Lake Marathon are good events to have in the parks.

Donna Grube provided the Council members with three examples of communities with facility usage agreements for Council review. She stated the ODNR parks department choose to be a co-sponsor of certain events and waive the fees. CM Sovinski there may be two types of co-sponsor; a financial co-sponsor and a political co-sponsor.

CM Buxton stated the City also needs to be sure to avoid overpricing for events.

CM Larmore stated the biggest thing is to cover the liability of the events. A precedence is going to be created dependent on what is allowed. Director Hitchcock stated perhaps whoever wants to have an event at the Lakeshore Park would need to go to Council for approval. And, since alcohol is not permitted in any of the other parks, Administration can issue permits for events in those parks.

CM Larmore stated the City needs to be concerned about the wedding events serving alcohol, and the City's liability if someone leaves the event and causes an accident. The City has rules of no consumption of alcohol in the parks, and the event needs to be aware of this rule.

President King adjourned the meeting at 6:55 pm.

Submitted by Joan S. Wurster, Clerk of Council