

**Village of Chagrin Falls  
Parks Commission  
June 27, 2017**

**Next meeting: July 25, 2017**

The meeting was convened in Village Hall at 8:26 am.

In attendance: Anne deConingh, Tod White, Rob Jamieson, Ben Himes, Bill Tomko,  
Also: Jane Babinsky, Angie DeBernardo, Mandy Rickelman, Dustin Welch

The May 23, 2017 meeting minutes were not approved - did not have a quorum.

**Triangle Park**

July 4 events: Even though we did not have a quorum, Bill and Ben determined that since this use has been previously approved, the plans could go forth. Jane Babinsky of the Chagrin Falls Historical Society outlined the highlights, noting additional activities which will include a pet parade, Mark Simone's Band, and the Jaycees' hot dog stand next to the Stairway to the Falls (proceeds will go the restoration of the Civil War memorial on Evergreen Cemetery). Set up will begin at 8:00 AM and Tod will be there to help with the sound system. Laura Goretta will call Bill Tomko about his speech during the ceremony.

**River Run Park**

Angie De Bernardo said she wants the old bus shelter for the bocce ball court; a slab will have to be poured for this as well as two old benches from Riverside Park.

Garden under sign: needs serious weeding and plant replacement. Bill will talk with Rob Jamieson about making this a naturalized garden for minimal maintenance.

**Riverside Park**

After much discussion, it was determined that bricks, with an underlying concrete base, will be used to replace the current crumbling stairway from the library because they allow water to percolate through and will complement the existing brick walk. Since the Parks Commission has not come up with any creative ways for soliciting funds, Bill will talk with some Jaycees on July 5 about their willingness to do the physical work and possibly contribute funds. We need a fund raiser and an ongoing sale of bricks with names; Bill said he is constantly getting requests to memorialize people and this could be a good way to do it.

Anne requested that "Keep off the Grass" signs be placed in strategic spots to encourage people to avoid disturbing the newly planted grass seed.

Rob described the huge effort made by the Service Department and Beautification Co-Chair Janine Bauman in cleaning out weeds at the electrical panel and around the south and east sides of Cuffs which is really Village property. Several burning bushes were salvaged and replanted in other areas of the park; tall grasses were also replanted. Fabric, mulch, and stones were placed in the weeded areas to discourage their return. The net effect is that these areas of the park *look so much better and will be easier to maintain*. The Service Department will patch the asphalt drive in the nearby municipal parking lot.

At the former skating shelter, everything was dug out to get rid of noxious weeds and existing perennials were replanted. Janine and Anne deConingh will eventually add more perennial contributions from their gardens.

The Service Department did bush trimming in other downtown parks.

Tod reported that rather large pick up bands have been playing at the entrance and plugging in their amplifiers to the electrical outlets there. Anne asked that the power be turned off, at least until a bona fide group needs it.

### *Shakespeare in the Park*

Dustin Welch explained that *A Midsummer's Night Dream* is being dropped this year; they will just concentrate on the *Romeo and Juliet* performances on August 4,5, 11, and 12. He wants to:

- have the performances at the entrance to Riverside Park rather than near the stairway from the library. The audience will be seated on the patio facing east and he will rent a sound system from an outfit such as Empirical. The Commission approved this plan.
- bring in mini stages. Bill said he should be prepared to put plywood sheets under the platforms; also that it might be cheaper to rent risers from ABC Rental, etc. Should be 12' to 10', tops.
- obtain portable trash cans from the Jaycees.

The schedule will be:

4:30 - 5:00 PM - Set up

7:00 PM - Performance start - should end under 2 hours (People should arrive by 6:30 or so.)

9:00 PM - Tear down - start around 9:00 and be out by 10:00 PM.

Advertising: Posters, postcards, CVLT mailing list, CF library bulletin board, VAC

Rain spaces: Township Hall (call Betty McIver 440-708-4347), CF library, Valley Lutheran Church, CVLT

Best part: It's FREE!

## **Bell Street Park**

Anne will show Rob where the two benches from Riverside Park should be placed.

## **Franklin Park**

Since the addition of a "new" park bench next to the old one which is identical in style, discussion has arisen about giving this park more of an identity. The Tree Commission would like to plant trees there, but also wants to know what the purpose and plans for the park are. The Service Department would like to install a culvert and fill in the swale along High Street to make it easier to maintain and add space for parking. A rain garden, picnic tables, a sign, etc. could be added to make it more useful. Bill suggested that we come up with Plans A, B, and C for a survey to present to residents in this area. We can get addresses for the four nearest streets from Debbie Bosworth. It was also suggested that the benches be turned around to face the park, rather than North Street.

## **Skateboarding**

Mandy Rickelman, long-time Chagrin Valley resident, approached the Commission about providing a skateboarding area somewhere in one of the parks. She said she has seen kids skateboarding everywhere where they are not supposed to, i.e., Grove Hill, Bellview, Riverside Park, and hoped that some accommodation could be made. Bill Tomko said her request should be directed to the Rec Center and emphasized that multi-community projects are fraught with problems he was not willing for the Village to take on.

**Beautification:** Knock out roses in all parks and bump out gardens will be fertilized this week.

Adjournment: 9:45 AM

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 25, 2017

Anne Wombwell deConingh, Chair