

OTTAWA HILLS VILLAGE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
June 3, 2024 7:00 PM

Call to Order – Mayor Thompson

7:00 PM

Village Representatives in Attendance

Mayor Thompson
Councilwoman Dana Dunbar
Councilman Dan Wimmers
Councilwoman Wendy Greeley
Village Administrator John Wenzlick

Councilman Edward Shimborske III
Councilwoman Heather Phillips
Councilman John Lewis
Clerk/Treasurer Mark Mockensturm
Solicitor Kati Tharp

Citizen Attendees

Nasrin Afjeh
Brittany Asmus
Judd Silverman
Larry Nameche

Yarko Kuk
Erica Silk

Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Shimborske to approve the minutes, as amended from the April 29, 2024 Council meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizens Comments

Judd Silverman, Ottawa Hills School Foundation, stated the foundation would like to provide funding for turf to be installed at the infield of Hardman Field. The funding would come from the Hardman Field Project Capital Campaign. He stated that Mr. Hardman has just completed his 50th year as coach for Ottawa Hills. In addition to coaching, he also runs the summer youth baseball camps and dedicates more than 20 hours a week taking care of the field. If turf was installed, it would be less maintenance for Mr. Hardman and the Village. Practices could remain at the field, rather than the football field in the spring. Mr. Silverman, Ms. Silk and Mr. Hardman met with the contractor who completed turf at St. Ursulas' field. The cost estimate for turf at Hardman Field is \$400,000.

For past capital campaigns the foundation has completed, the goal was to find a lead donor. Mr. Hardman has recruited a lead donor who has pledged \$100,000 and the foundation has an additional \$60,000 in pledges. Mr. Silverman stated he sees this as a two-year project with construction in October 2025 with the field being ready in the spring of 2026. Capital campaigns take up an extensive amount of time. Before continuing this campaign, Mr. Silverman is asking for support from Council. The foundation is not asking for a financial commitment from Council, they are asking for indication of support before fundraising the project.

Mr. Lewis asked if turfing the infield would prohibit other sports from playing on the field. Mr. Silverman stated the field could be utilized for numerous sports including youth baseball and softball. Mr. Lewis asked what the life of turf field is, and Mr. Silverman stated that they last 10-12 years and can include a warranty. Mr. Silverman stated there are many other turf fields in the area including Clay and Perrysburg. Ms. Phillips stated the football is turf and is fenced in so she

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would like to know what restrictions would be in place for Hardman Field, which has no fence. Ms. Silk stated the \$400,000 is a campaign goal, it is not the actual cost of the turf. This includes other costs that are incidental.

Mayor Thompson stated the football stadium is the schools' property, but the baseball field is Village owned. He stated there would recognition for donors, but not advertising on Village property. Ms. Silk gave examples of how they could recognize the donors, with one example being metal plaques. Mr. Shimborske stated he has been in support of this project to honor Mr. Hardman. Mrs. Dunbar asked about recognition guidelines and Ms. Silk advises it would not be infinite, more like ten years. Mayor Thompson distinguished between recognition vs. naming rights. It was noted the field could be more useful with the turf placement area. Ms. Afjeh asked who the lead contributor would be, and Mr. Silverman shared that it is Pat Trompeter. Ms. Afjeh asked about the maintenance and construction of the turf, and Mayor Thompson stated that the village would have to approve the construction after funds are received. The Village would proceed with a bidding process, but the funds donated would cover construction costs. Mrs. Greeley asked what would happen in ten years when the turf needs replaced. Mr. Silverman stated that the foundation would hopefully still be active and would help with turf being replaced. Mr. Silverman is amazed at the generosity of residents, alums, and local businesses. Mayor Thompson stated there are ongoing expenses with or without the installation of turf.

Mayor Thompson reiterated that Mr. Silverman is looking for support from the Council for the campaign of turf at Hardman Field. Mrs. Greeley asked if there have been any questions about the optics regarding the money being used for turf. Six months ago, teachers didn't have money to buy supplies for students. Ms. Silk stated these donations are specific for baseball and referred to the mission of the foundation. The mission is to enhance the experience at the school, not to fund the basic needs of the schools. Mr. Silverman stated that the foundation has grants that help the administration and teachers. Mr. Silverman stated they grant about \$150,000 a year from the foundation to enhance the students' experiences.

Mr. Lewis would like to know the steps involved, in 10-12 years, if the Village wanted to remove the turf and return to grass. If the village doesn't have money to update the turf, what would be the cost if they must go back to grass? Regarding the football field, Ms. Silk stated that the district set a plan to reserve money annually for the cost of maintenance and/or replacement. Mr. Wimmers suggested we set up a committee meeting regarding all the questions Council has. Mayor Thompson stated Mr. Wenzlick will schedule a Building and Grounds committee meeting to get the questions answered. Mrs. Greeley asked about the injury rates on turf for baseball. Mr. Silverman requested the questions be in writing; Mr. Wenzlick will send those questions to the foundation. Mayor Thompson stated the committee meeting will be prior to the Council meeting to discuss all the questions discussed today.

Executive Session

At 7:36 pm, Mr. Shimborske made a motion to move into executive session for the purpose of conferring with the Village Solicitor in regard to pending or imminent court action. Mr. Wimmers seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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At 8:05 pm Council returned to regular session.

Finance & Future Planning – Mr. Lewis

Mr. Lewis stated the committee met and discussed the possibility of hiring a firm for updating the Zoning Code. The Committee would like Mr. Wenzlick to research other alternatives and find out what other municipalities are doing, that are similar in size. The cost estimate of the proposal was close to \$40,000, which was not budgeted this year. The Finance Committee will revisit this request once they receive more information.

Human Resources – Ms. Phillips

Ms. Phillips stated there was not a committee meeting but the recent resident newsletter informed residents about block party information. It is easy for the Village to support block parties and Council members could also host a block party.

Safety – Mrs. Dunbar

None

Services & Environment – Mrs. Greeley

Mrs. Greeley stated the sledding hill project has been delayed due to the weather. Mr. Wenzlick stated the start date was pushed back to July, due to the amount of rain.

Streets & Bridges – Mr. Shimborske

None

Utilities, Equipment, Buildings & Grounds – Mr. Wimmers

Mr. Wimmers stated the committee did not meet, but Mr. Wenzlick will get a meeting scheduled. Mr. Wenzlick stated Kester Mowing is now the contractor for Village mowing. Mr. Wenzlick stated there are additional charges to get White Field back on track due to tall grass and lack of mowing from the previous contractor.

Solicitor's Report

None

Administrator's Report

Mr. Wenzlick stated the tennis courts will be closed June 7th to get a core sample, which will lead to the start of the design work. The construction will be August through October. Mr. Wenzlick stated this timeline has been communicated to the school's new athletic director, as well as Becky from Village Life. Mr. Wenzlick stated the final cost is unknown, there will be engineering and construction costs. The initial quote did not include drainage plan costs. Ms. Phillips asked when the tennis courts were last updated, and Mr. Wenzlick believes it's been at least 20 years.

Mr. Wenzlick stated that he received the initial list from our engineer regarding upcoming potential street projects. Mr. Wenzlick will have some questions for the engineer regarding mill and fills and a timeline for other roads to get reconstructed.

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Mayor's Report

Mayor Thompson stated there were many positive comments on Facebook, regarding the post about hanging baskets in the Village. Mr. Wimmers would like to know who supplies the hanging baskets and commented that it is a very good price for the baskets we receive.

Mayor Thompson stated that he reached out to a gentleman to discuss strategic planning for the Village, which includes setting goals and making plans during a Council work session. He will share the quote with Council, once received.

Old Business

Ms. Phillips stated the recent Walk and Roll did not have enough volunteers for every intersection, but the kids still had a great time.

Ms. Phillips asked about the boulders in the right of way and asked if there was an update. Mr. Wenzlick stated there was not a strong consensus regarding the boulders, but there was a violation letter sent out in the past. Mr. Wenzlick and Ms. Tharp have discussed this topic, regarding what the village authority is, regarding banning items in the right of way. They are still researching to see where the village stands legally.

New Business

A motion was made by Mr. Shimborske and seconded by Ms. Phillips to approve payment of attorney fees for Ms. Tharp. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Shimborske and seconded by Mr. Wimmers to approve payment of both sets of attorney fees for Reminger. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting Date

July 8, 2024

Adjournment

8:24 PM



Mayor Thompson