

Village of Crooksville

Workshop Minutes

February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Mayor Mohler calls the meeting to order. The following members present; Mr. Rice, Mr. Locke, Mr. Hampton, Ms. Smith, Mr. Allen, and Mr. Loomis. Tom Collins and Amy Utsch were also present.

Mayor Mohler informs all that there will be a four-minute time limit to all citizens who are wanting to have time at the podium this evening.

Many citizens were also present in support of the Rec Center, and several wanted to take this opportunity to discuss their thoughts and opinions regarding this matter.

The first up to lead the discussion was Curtis Nichols who resides at 16220 Timberman Rd. Malta. Curtis wants Council to be aware of the fact that many of the youth are leaving Crooksville to play sports in other areas. It has come to the point where so many children have left the sports programs that many of the sports have had to go to co-ed sports just to have enough children to participate, and to have teams. He would like to see all of the sports have equal opportunities to be able to use the Rec Center. Curtis gave many supporting thoughts, and statistics on why youth sports programs are vital to developing well rounded children. There was a lengthy discussion between Curtis, Mr. Rice, and other citizens about the income that each sport brings into the Rec center, and how often that each sport uses the Rec Center facility.

Next up to the podium is Corey Dodmire, who resides at 2115 Township Road 197 NE. Corey remembers fondly of the time when he was a student and he and many of his classmates would ride the school bus to the Rec Center. He questions Council as to why the Rec Center has closed this down to the children? Mr. Hampton explains that during the time in question the Village had received a Wellness Grant that enabled them to have these additional programs available at the Rec Center. Due to the fact that we lost the Wellness Grant that program had to be eliminated due to lack of funding, and we have not been able to obtain that grant again. Corey would like to see the Rec Center be open and more available for today's youth. Mr. Rice explains how expensive the Rec Center is to keep the doors open. Last year it cost over \$40,000 to keep it up and running, and that all of the sporting events combined was not near enough to cover that amount of expenses. The money that is paid in Income Tax is what is used to keep the Rec Center up and running.

Logan Spung of 660 Summit Street is the next to take his turn at the podium. Logan feels that everyone needs to do a better job working together for the betterment of all of the kids. He feels "That it does take a Village to raise a child". He would like to see everyone play a bigger part in influencing today's youth. Logan would like to see the Village take over all of the sports in Crooksville. He feels that people would be more accountable if they had to answer to the Village. Mr. Rice recommends starting a Sports Committee where a member of each sport, a few citizens, and himself would come together to make decisions, and to see what was possible for the Rec Center.

There was a lengthy discussion on the need for volunteers. Everyone agrees that to make all of the sports programs work that they need many volunteers. Volunteers are hard to come by. Many say they

are willing to donate their time, but when the time comes in many cases there isn't a volunteer to be found. Tom states that "the world is run by those who show up". People would like to see more information regarding sports and events posted on to the Village's Facebook page. Many people would like to see the batting cages be reopened. People would also like to see a full-time staff member present at the Rec Center so there would be a place for the youth to go. With the upcoming Revitalization Grant on the horizon there is a revisiting of the discussion on how the money will be spent to upgrade areas of the Rec center.

Tom offers a funding guide for anyone that is interested in looking through it. Ashley Miller (114 Vaughn Street) takes the guide, and approaches the podium. Ashley is a social worker, and a volunteer cheer coach. She stresses the importance of coaches and volunteers, and how they make a huge difference in the lives of the children. She feels that all kids need someone to rely on, and what a huge difference one person can make in the life of a youth. Ashley wants Council to find the money to make a difference for the children. She feels like the Village has given up on its children. She states that it takes one step, one person to make a change, and she asks that Council take that first step.

With no further discussion in regards to the Rec Center, Tom takes up the discussion regarding the Pitney Bowes postage machine. They are going to raise the rental cost up to \$175.95 every three months, in addition to the cost of the postage. The plan is to stop the rental and start purchasing stamps.

Demo of the E. School will begin in the next few months. It would be nice to use the crushed brick for fill. The question is asked to whether the Village would be interested in taking ownership of the property. This will have to be discussed in further detail.

The electric at the park will need to be updated prior to the Pottery Festival this year. There are plans to have rides, and the current electric set up will not be sufficient.

Tom provides pictures of concrete that has become a potential hazard, and would like to see it replaced at the park. Some of the equipment at the park also could stand to be updated. He would like to purchase a new swing set that would have a bay that would be ADA equipped, wheelchair accessible swing. There is a Nature Works Grant that would be nice to apply for in hopes of updating more aspects of the park. The current swing set in in very bad shape, and the swings are used a great deal.

Tom shares the preliminary proposed Fire Station design and layout that was done by Tim Bement with App Architecture. The Fire Station will be paid with Municipal Bonds.

There is question as to if the Administration Building is in an actual flood plain. Tom proposes to challenge this to reduce the cost of the insurance.

With no further discussion Mayor Mohler calls the Council Workshop meeting adjourned.

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Chris Mohler

Mayor

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Amy Utsch

Fiscal Officer