



**Council Report**  
**City of Pataskala Parks Department**  
**Lenier Crawford, Parks Manager**

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➤ **New Items**

• **Freedom Park Improvement Project**

- The city opened bids for this walking path project on October 27<sup>th</sup>. We received six bids. The engineer's estimate for the project was \$54,300. The lowest and best bid was submitted by Petty Farms in the amount of \$51,125.
- Resolution 2023-078 is on the agenda tonight to accept that bid.

• **Cold Storage Structure at Foundation Park**

- The Parks Department has identified the need for additional storage at Foundation Park near the maintenance garage. The original concept was to take the \$40,000 available in this year's budget and add it to \$90,000 in the 2024 budget to build a heated storage structure. In an attempt to keep costs down in the Parks department, the decision was made to remove the \$90,000 from the 2024 budget and use the \$40,000 existing funds to install a cold storage structure instead.
- Resolution 2023-079 is on the agenda tonight to allow for the purchase and installation of that cold storage structure.

• **Maintenance Garage**

- Columbia Gas has added the meter to the facility for the maintenance garage heater that was previously installed.

• **Municipal Pool**

- The building along with the pools have been winterized.

• **Energy Cooperative**

- The energy cooperative, which provides electric services for our area, is planning to add lights to the unused light poles along the road within

Foundation Park. This initiative will contribute to improved safety and aesthetics within the park and its surrounding areas. The installation of these lights will come at no cost to the city.

➤ **Ongoing Items**

• **Foundation Park**

- Planning Conaway's Trail fence work for safety concerns.
  - Fence replacement and repairs have started at this facility. We have replaced several posts and rails on Conaway's Trail, but still have several more to complete.
  - All stumps have been identified and painted along the pathway. The department is also removing the leaves from the path at least twice per week. This is all being done to ensure the safe use of the path, as residents utilize this path daily.

• **Municipal Park**

- We had the new security cameras at Municipal installed. Unfortunately, the camera that was installed was shot with a BB gun before the electric to the camera was connected. Because of that, we do not have footage of the incident. The damage to the camera is not covered by the warranty.
  - The control box for the system has failed and is being replaced via warranty. We are waiting for that control box to arrive to complete the installation of the new camera. Estimated time of completion is the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week of November.

• **Karr Park**

- We will be cutting back the overgrowth along the tree lines at Karr Park during the winter season.

• **Citizens Park**

- This park has been brushed hogged. We intend to survey the property and begin marking out the perimeter for a split rail fence installation this fall. The project will move forward until our existing fence inventory is exhausted. The project will be finished in 2024.

- **Volunteer Park**

- Nothing to report.

- **Freedom Park**

- Freedom Park Improvement project
  - The walking path at Freedom Park will be the base bid. The and the parking lot project will be alternate bids.
  - This project received six submitted bids. there is a resolution on the agenda tonight that would award the project to Petty Farms LLC.
    - Due to high bids for the alternate project, we will not be performing the parking lot extension.
  - This project is a joint venture with the Licking County Parks District. The Parks Department will use the available funds in this year's budget cycle to cover the cost of the project up front. Once the project is complete, we will receive \$25,000 from the Licking County Parks District.

- **Liberty Park**

- Playground/woods
  - The tree line along the back of the park has been cut back. We also cleared out inside the play area and the path leading to the Morrison Farm neighborhood.
  - Parks staff is planning to do the following projects at Liberty Park:
    - Cut trees down past the bridge to establish a safe trail around the pond.
    - Add fencing within the woods which connect Morrison Farm neighborhood and Liberty Park along the newly cleared path. There is a lot of traffic from that neighborhood to the park. We will use a maximum of 6 split rail fence pieces to create an aesthetically pleasing entranceway into the park.

- **Park Manager Updates**

- Youth Soccer is now complete for the recreation department.
  - Winter training will be occurring at several location: Licking Heights Central, Licking Heights South, Tri-Village Church, and Liberty Christian Academy. Training in the winter is a fee for service program.
- Congratulations to the Lady Celtics
  - One of our All-Girl teams (Lady Celtics) won the middle school championship for the Fall 2023 season. This team has now won 2 championships while only being together for 4 seasons.
- Budget
  - I have been working with the administration and finance on the 2024 Budget.
    - The focus is on transparency by moving all appropriate money out of the 101 fund and into the 206 fund. We are also focused on tightening the budget up as much as possible to provide a fiscally conservative operation of the Parks Department.

Respectfully submitted,

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