



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

➤ New Items

• Legislation

- Resolution 2024-032: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH LAW GENERAL CONTRACTING FOR CONSTRUCTION SERVICES OF THE FREEDOM PARK BASKETBALL COURT PROJECT
 - Even though this project does not exceed the bidding threshold, the Parks Department gathered multiple quotes from contractors.
 - Law General Contracting provided the best and lowest quote in the amount of \$43,715.
 - The Parks Department is requesting authorization for an additional \$6,285 to be used for contingency funds and the purchase of basketball hoops.
 - The total amount requested via this resolution is \$50,000. That is the amount in the 2024 Parks Budget for this project.

• Foundation Park

- Cold Storage Structure
 - The project is now complete and was done with no issues.
- Soccer Field Maintenance
 - Several areas of the soccer fields have been identified as needing dressed with top soil.
 - Parks staff members have been working on getting the athletic fields ready for the upcoming soccer season beginning at the end of March.
 - The first week of March we will begin setting up the soccer fields for all facilities that will be used as a part of the soccer program in spring of 2024.

- **Freedom Park**

- Walking Path

- The walking path project is nearly complete as of 2/28/2024. The construction of the walking path has gone very well, and the contractor (Petty Farms) has been great to work with.

- Basketball Court

- Law General Contracting provided a quote to complete this project in the amount of \$43,715. This is being presented to council for consideration as Resolution 2024-032
 - The Parks Department is asking for the full project budget amount of \$50,000.
 - The additional funds above the quote will be used for contingency items and the installation of some basketball hoops.
 - Should we not be able to purchase all 6 basketball hoops with the extra money, we will add the remaining basketball hoops to the budget for 2025.

- **Recreational Program**

- Soccer Program

- The next Coaches meeting is set for March 9th @9:30am at the Police Station.
 - As of 2/28/2024 we have 742 total registrations.
 - The soccer program is very successful and continues to grow every year.

- **Staffing**

- Aquatics

- Interviews have started. We will have employees completing the onboard process throughout the months of March and April.

- Seasonal Maintenance Worker

- We received an application from a candidate to fill our second seasonal maintenance worker position.

➤ **Ongoing Items**

• **Foundation Park**

- The Parks Department will continue to maintain the walking trails during the winter season.
- Soccer Field Maintenance
 - Several areas of the soccer fields have been identified as needing dressed with top soil.
 - Parks staff members have been working on getting the athletic fields ready for the upcoming soccer season beginning at the end of March.
 - The first week of March we will begin setting up the soccer fields for all facilities that will be used as a part of the soccer program in spring of 2024.
- Ball diamond maintenance.
 - Parks staff, with assistance from the Public Service Department, increased the cleared area of the infield to accommodate 90 ft baselines.
 - This work will be finished once we spread the 60 tons of infield mix currently on order. This amount of infield mix is needed to achieve proper grading and to accommodate the longer baselines.
 - The infield mix will be spread inhouse by Parks staff members.
 - We anticipate adding drainage pipe on diamond 2 and 3 along the first and third base lines during the winter season once the ground is frozen to minimize damage to the area during pipe installation.
 - If this project doesn't occur prior to the season we plan to complete this work late in the year 2024.
- Cold Storage Structure at Foundation Park
 - The parks department will be constructing a 25 ft x 60 ft enclosed structure for additional cold storage. The structure will have a large garage door along with a man door for personnel access.
 - The project has started and is expected to be completed no later than 2/16/2024.
 - The final county inspection is set for February 15th for the cold storage building.
 - The project is now complete and was done with no issues.

- **Municipal Park**

- A message board will be installed near the trail at Municipal Park to be used for community park announcements.
- In February or March, we will add infield mix to this diamond ball as a part of our routine maintenance efforts.

- **Karr Park**

- We will be cutting back the overgrowth along the tree lines at Karr Park during the winter season.
- The Licking County Soil and Water team have chosen our park for the stream team. The stream team course is being held on April 2nd on site. The stream team is a Volunteer Citizen Science Stream Monitoring program that the LCSWCD administers.
 - The training focusses on macroinvertebrates, habitat, and chemical parameters. Karr Park has easy stream access, in a relatively unstudied watershed (Muddy Fork). We are very excited to host this event.

- **Citizens Park**

- The parks department has surveyed this property and started laying out the areas where a split-rail fence will be installed.
 - The Faith Ann entrance that connects the woods to the Northwest Corner of the park will be included with this small project.
 - We will be using most of our split rail fence stockpile at Freedom Park. Once that project is complete, we will move on to this project at Citizens Park.

- **Volunteer Park**

- We will begin routine maintenance on the ball diamonds in the upcoming weeks in preparation of the LHYA season starting mid-March.
 - Ball diamond mix is required on the east field and will be scheduled.

- **Freedom Park**

- The Freedom Park Improvements Project (walking path 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.

- The walking path project was originally set to begin the week of January 22nd. The estimated time of completion of the project is 4 weeks. The project per the contract will be completed by June 6th, 2024.
 - The walking path project is nearly complete as of 2/28/2024. The construction of the walking path has gone very well, and the contractor (Petty Farms) has been great to work with.
- Basketball Court
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 - The Parks Department is asking for the full project budget amount of \$50,000.
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 - Should we not be able to purchase all 6 basketball hoops with the extra money, we will add the remaining basketball hoops to the budget for 2025.
- **Liberty Park**
 - Playground/woods
 - Parks staff is planning to cut trees down past the bridge to establish a safe trail around the pond.
 - This is expected to occur in the off-season once seasonals begin working.
- **Park Manager Updates**
 - Soccer Program
 - The next Coaches meeting is set for March 9th @9:30am at the Police Station.
 - As of 2/28/2024 we have 742 total registrations.
 - The soccer program is very successful and continues to grow every year.

- Staffing
 - Aquatics
 - Interviews have started. We will have employees completing the onboard process throughout the months of March and April.
 - Seasonal Maintenance Worker
 - We received an application from a candidate to fill our second seasonal maintenance worker position.
 - Employee certifications
 - The parks manager will be obtaining a renewal of license to operate the pool facility this season.
 - Several returning aquatic employees will be taking the course to become an Aquatic Facility Operator with the Parks Manager to ensure that we have more than one staff member that is qualified to run the operation.
 - The parks manager will be renewing his Certified Parks and Recreation Professional Certification prior to September. This is a two-year certificate period.

Respectfully submitted,

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