

**Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public Affairs Committee**

May 16, 2016

Members: Vic Pallotta, Chair
Adam Miller
Jerry James

Mr. Pallotta called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Mr. James was not present.

The minutes from the May 2, 2016 Committee meeting were approved as written.

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Ord. A-39

Discussion

Temp. Ord. A-39

An ordinance authorizing the Parks and Recreation Board to apply for and accept a grant from the Department of Natural Resources, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Matthew Schaad, Operations and Marketing Manager for the Parks and Recreation Department, stated that this is a Nature Work Grant through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The total project cost is \$78,800, of which the City would be applying for this grant for 75-percent reimbursement. The City started redoing the shelters in the back of Waterworks Park in 1998. This is last shelter to be replaced there. It is 80 years old. It presents some maintenance issues with birds and bats collecting in there. This new shelter will be brighter, and it will eliminate any birds or bats being able to harbor in there. Construction would begin in 2018. Mr. Schaad passed around a picture of the repairs done last year to the Big Cuyahoga Shelter versus what the current shelter for Kelsey Creek looks like. There is a big difference in lighting and just overall appeal.

Mr. Pallotta stated that for those that aren't familiar with the Kelsey Creek Shelter House, as you enter through the tunnel, it is the first little shelter house on the slight left. The Big Cuyahoga is to the right and the Shady Bend Shelter just beyond that, almost at the river. He stated it was built in 1936 and seats almost 75 people. Mr. Schaad stated the new shelter house will be the same as the Big Cuyahoga, seating about 60 to 70 people. Mrs. Pyke asked when Mr. Schaad would know if they received the grant and how soon after that the shelter would be replaced. Mr. Schaad stated they will know if the grant is awarded in late fall. Sometimes, it does push into the first of the year, depending on the cycle of the legislation. If the grant funds are received, it will go out for design in 2017 and built in 2018. Mr. Pallotta thanked Mr. Schaad and stated that they appreciate the Parks Department applying for and staying on top of the grants that are available. Mr. Schaad stated that they intend to continue doing that.

Mr. Miller moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-39 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Pallotta. Motion passed (2-0).

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Mr. Pallotta stated that Ms. Mary Ann Sheets, of 3178 Wilson Street, would like to address Council and the Administration. Ms. Sheets stated that she has lived on Wilson Street for 45 years. She came before Council tonight to thank Mayor Walters, Council and especially Mr. Miller, her 6th Ward councilman. She stated Wilson Street has been an eyesore. She has worked diligently with Mr. Miller, and he has really stepped up to the plate and done his due diligence to help. She was really thrilled and pleased to get a message today from Mayor Walters stating that all of Wilson Street is going to be paved. This is an old street that does not have curbs and sewers. The houses were built in 1947. She stated that she just wanted to come and say thank you, because it is so important, in this day and age, to show some kindness and, also, to be thankful when you have something that you're so thrilled about that happens. She introduced her neighbors, Mike and Sandy Kreighbaum, to Council and the Administration. Mr. Kreighbaum, of 3190 Wilson Street, stated that he would like to reiterate what Ms. Sheets said. It was nice to get responsiveness and interaction with people when they ask for help. He stated that he wanted to say thank you, and that he doesn't have to pretend he's in England anymore and can drive on both sides of the road.

Mr. Pallotta stated that Mr. Joshua Hillman was present and would like to address Council and the Administration. Mr. Hillman stated that he would like to thank Council and the Administration for allowing him to come and speak today. He stated that he owns a business in the City of Cuyahoga Falls called Savage MMA & Fitness LLC/US Team Training Center. It is a center for martial arts, sports performance and fitness. It exists to leverage the skill of world-class martial artist talent, to develop fitness levels and skill levels for all people from entry level and rehabilitation client through Olympic and professional. Savage MMA & Fitness makes every effort to remove price of service as a boundary, especially for at-risk youth. Mr. Hillman stated that he wanted to come before Council and the Administration today not as just the owner of Savage MMA & Fitness; he now sits on the Development Committee for the United States governing body of the USJJF, as well as a regional center for two other governing bodies of the United States for the World Olympic Games. He is also a coach and trainer and an athlete on behalf of the United States. He stated that he wanted to talk about not only their accomplishments working with the City of Cuyahoga Falls, but with the state and country. Last September, they went to Europe and won on behalf of the United States for the first time in 30 years. They have made other major accomplishments. They have had users that stopped drug use and other substance abuse, and have gone on to make personal accomplishments and prideful ones on behalf of our country. In doing this, they have been given the opportunity to now be an affiliate of six, going on seven, different governing bodies of the US.

Mr. Hillman stated that, as a liaison for these organizations for the City of Cuyahoga Falls and on behalf of the United States, one of his positions is to train, develop, and, again, establish a good training center for our US athletes. He stated his business is growing and is going to be looking for a new facility; hopefully, in the City of Cuyahoga Falls. Along with other upcoming events, they also have international competitions coming up that are going to allow them to earn points to secure spots on behalf of Team USA for the 2017 Olympic World Games. Mr. Hillman stated that he comes to the Administration and the City Council tonight to look for support not for his business, but for these athletes, for these men and women that have put thousands upon thousands of hours and effort in, and that, unfortunately, in this country, don't receive any funding. It is all self-raised sponsorships and self-pay. When these men and woman work regular jobs, doing this is an effort. He stated that they would just like to continue to grow and improve their efforts. They

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have a few competitions coming up at US Fight Week 2016, where they are affiliated with UFC and others, but will be in Las Vegas for an international open to earn points. The other big competition after that would be the Pan American Games, and, after that, will be in Warsaw, Poland for the World Championships. Then, in 2017, one of the many international events coming up will be, again, in Warsaw, Poland for the Olympic World Games.

Mr. Hillman stated that the US has not placed on a podium in their Olympics for almost 30 years. This is something they would like to change. They have good people. They have good instructors from all over the country. They've done fantastic things. They want their youth and individuals that work very hard to continue to see results and make progress in their own lives, to see their City, their Council, their Administration support them. That is why he came here today. Mr. Hillman thanked Council and the Administration for their time. He stated that if they are interested, to let him know. He also has a website, Savage MMA & Fitness. His facility is located at 1736 Front Street, right in the redevelopment area, across from Hibachi Japan.

Mr. Steve Amos, from the Cuyahoga Falls Police & Silver Lake Police Memorial Foundation, stated that he was before Council and the Administration representing the 25 police officers that have been killed in the United States this year alone and the 126 officers that were killed last year. He stated the National Police Memorial Week was started in 1962, by President Kennedy declaring this week of May 15th as National Police Week. Cuyahoga Falls and Silver Lake Police Departments are represented with the Memorial that was built in 2012, with the support of two administrations, and located between the Natatorium and the City Building, where there will be a ceremony honoring our police officers on Wednesday, May 18th, at 10 a.m.

Mr. Amos stated that he wanted to briefly go over the many things that The Cuyahoga Falls Police & Silver Lake Police Memorial Foundation has done with the support of many local businesses, including Summa Western Reserve Hospital, A & C Welding and the Faber Foundation. With the support of the current administration under Mayor Walters and the Electric Department, the police memorial flags flowing throughout the city have gone up in 115 locations in the city, not only on Broad Boulevard, the Broad Boulevard bridge and Second Street, but all the City-operated buildings, including the Natatorium. They have also teamed up with the Cuyahoga Falls City School District, the Woodridge School District and all the private and parochial schools in the city and, now, a flag is flying on every one of their poles. He stated by doing research and contacting other memorial foundations, as best they can tell, there is no other location in the country that has as many flags flying this week. They represent not only the Foundation, but they represent the City of Cuyahoga Falls and the Village of Silver Lake by doing this. Mr. Amos stated that their Foundation has also teamed up with the current Lamar Communications, the former Clear Channel, and, with Mr. Brillhart's daughter's help, they have two full-size billboards declaring this National Police Week in the City located at Portage Trail and 7th Street, by the Drug Mart, and Hudson Drive and Bailey Road.

Mr. Amos stated that the Foundation has also teamed up with the Justin Winebrenner Foundation. Justin Winebrenner was an officer for the City of Akron who was murdered last year. His father will be the keynote speaker at this year's memorial. He started the light bulb campaign last year with his own money. Mr. Amos brought a light bulb to pass around to Council and the Administration, and explained that it was to show peace, not only among police officers, but

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citizens across the United States. The Foundation has donated the funds to contribute to the Mayor's office of both the City of Cuyahoga Falls and Silver Lake. Right now, those bulbs are available in Mayor Walters' office and Mayor Hovey's office for free or, if you choose, a donation. They will be available as long as supplies last. He stated he will keep supplies available as they keep their funding, which hopefully will be throughout the course of their Foundation.

Mr. Amos stated the police memorial flags are available at Falls Flag & Banner, a long-time Cuyahoga Falls business. They will sell the flag at cost and return \$10 back to the Foundation. Every dollar given back to the Foundation has been reinvested in the flags going back to the city to fly at locations. Through the Mayor's office, there were a few more locations added this year: The set of flagpoles at Riverfront Parkway, the flagpoles on Broad Boulevard and the main flagpole up from the Veterans' display. He stated that he was there this evening to personally invite everyone to the Police Memorial this coming Wednesday at 10 a.m. Giant Eagle Marketplace is supporting them by fully funding the reception to be held at the Natatorium. Mr. Amos thanked Council and the Administration for their time.

Mr. Pallotta made a motion to excuse Mr. James from tonight's meeting, second by Mr. Miller. Motion passed 2-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.