

New Philadelphia City Council

Finance Committee

Meeting Notes

October 24, 2016 – 6:15 p.m.

Present for all or portions of the meeting were the following: committee chairman Darrin Lautenschleger and committee member Rob Maurer; committee alternate Dean Holland; Councilmembers Aimee May, Cheryl Ramos and Kelly Ricklic; Council President Sam Hitchcock; Clerk of Council Julie Courtright; Service Director Ron McAbier; Auditor Beth Gundy; City Law Director Marvin Fete; Safety Director Greg Popham; City Park Board President Don Kemp; City Park Board member Tom Farbizo; City Park Assistant Superintendent Chase Hostetler; Trina Woodland of the Ohio Mid-East Governments Association; and Shyanne Carroll of WJER Radio.

ITEMS: Proposed Ordinance 45-2016 and required public hearing for city application to Ohio Department of Natural Resources for Land and Water Conservation Fund grant.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 45-2016: Chairman Lautenschleger provided background about the Park Board's top priority from an infrastructure, public recreation and safety aspect, and that is to address the crumbling tennis courts at Tuscora Park. An estimate to replace six of the eight courts produced a cost of \$392,000. Park Board members authorized Park Board President Don Kemp and member Tom Farbizo to seek potential sources of funding and the two of them contacted Trina Woodland, a Community Development Specialist with the Ohio Mid-East Governments Association at Cambridge. Ms. Woodland researched the project and has recommended that the city apply for a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant administered through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). The city previously received an LWCF grant to construct the courts in 1990.

The LWCF grant program provides for up to 50 percent of the total cost of an approved grant project, Ms. Woodland said. The matching amount does not have to completely be through cash, either, as in-kind assistance also is acceptable.

Mr. Kemp reported on the poor condition of the courts and explained that the Ohio High School Athletic Association removed sectional and district tournaments for boys and girls' tennis players from Tuscora Park about three years ago due to the courts' condition. He also said that the condition of the courts has prompted some adult leagues to seek alternate locations for play, most of the time outside the city and even Tuscarawas County. Earlier this year, the Park Board authorized spending about \$10,000 to fill the most noticeable cracks in the court surfaces, he added, saying this is only a temporary "fix" and already is beginning to fail in many locations.

Chase Hostetler, assistant park superintendent, said that the courts still receive plenty of play despite their poor condition, but that complaints have increased in recent months.

Mr. Farbizo reported that alternative grant sources also are being sought, and that both the city and New Philadelphia City Schools have committed \$50,000 each toward the project. Mr. Farbizo also said he has reached out for advice and guidance to James Amick, a graduate of New Philadelphia High School who works as a United States Tennis Association regional official.

Ms. Woodland said there is a definite economic impact to the city from the courts and that providing safe courts for free public recreation is something the Park Board has talked with her about.

In response to questions about how the grant program works, Ms. Woodland said it is a reimbursable grant, which means that dollars are spent by the city and then reimbursed by ODNR upon the proper submission of receipts/proof of work. Auditor Beth Gundy said that since an entire lump sum equal to any grant

award does not have to be set aside in the city budget, this grant program would be as acceptable in the city budget as other grant projects have been. She said as long as reimbursements occur in a timely manner, there should be no negative consequences in the city budget process and cash on hand.

In response to a question, Mr. Farbizo said that the desire of the Park Board is to address all six courts at one time, but if funding allows for less than that, adjustments will be made and alternative plans developed. Mr. Kemp said the project only will go forward if grant funding is secured.

Chairman Lautenschleger also reminded everyone present that the discussion held during this meeting is part of the public hearing required as part of the LWCF grant application, and that a Nov. 15 deadline is looming for the completed application to be submitted by the city. Proposed Resolution 45-2016 authorizes the mayor to file the application on behalf of the city, and also is a requirement of the grant application.

ACTION: On a motion by Mr. Holland, seconded by Mr. Maurer, the Committee voted 3-0 to recommend to City Council that Proposed Resolution 45-2016 be added to the agenda for first reading at tonight's regular session of City Council, that the rules be suspended on this legislation, and that the legislation be approved on first reading.

With no further business to be discussed by the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Darrin Lautenschleger
Chairman

**CITY OF NEW PHILADELPHIA AND CITY PARK BOARD INVITE PUBLIC TO HEAR PLANS FOR
PROPOSED REPAVING OF TUSCORA PARK TENNIS COURTS**

The City of New Philadelphia, New Philadelphia City Park Board and the Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association invite the public to hear plans for the proposed Tuscora Tennis Courts Project, which will repave six tennis court surfaces in Tuscora Park. Repaving these surfaces will dramatically improve the condition of the courts, making them safer and more viable for fair play. In addition, repaving the tennis courts will revitalize and increase the recreational potential of Tuscora Park.

Funding for the project is being pursued through a grant offered by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). The Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association will be assisting the City and Park Board with the Land and Water Conservation application for this project.

The City of New Philadelphia, New Philadelphia City Park Board and the Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association are hosting a public meeting on **Monday, October 24th, 2016 at 6:15 p.m.** The public is encouraged to attend, offer commentary, and voice questions or concerns. The meeting will be held at the **John Knisely Municipal Centre at 150 East High Avenue, New Philadelphia, Ohio.**

