

CITY OF CLYDE
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
June 23, 2015

The regularly scheduled work session of Clyde City Council was held on Tuesday, June 23, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room, Clyde City Building, 222 N. Main Street, Clyde, Ohio 43410 for the sole purpose of a general parks discussion.

Roll Call.

Present: Mayor - G. Scott Black
Council Member - Ken Dick
Vice Mayor - Carolyn Farrar
Council Member - Steve Keegan
City Manager - Paul Fiser (Not voting)
Administrative Assistant - Sharon Smith (Not voting)
Clerk - Janet Dickman (Not voting)

Absent/

Excused: Council Member - Gary Beamer
Finance Director - Craig Davis
Solicitor - Zachary Selvey

We are here to discuss naming some City parks or areas, or reclaiming an area, for Sherwood Anderson, Thadius Hurd, and possibly other famous persons from Clyde. Limerick Park and Cherry Street Park are currently not named after someone. There has been some discussion regarding the First Financial Bank possibly donating some land to the City where Anderson Park used to be. Also for discussion are ideas for new park signs.

Mr. Dick suggested renaming Cherry Street Park to Anderson Park, with the Forest Street entrance to be named Thad Hurd pathway to Anderson Park. He suggested using plastic recyclable signs like are currently at Community Park, which are long lasting.

Mayor Black noted that no legislature will be passed tonight, but hopefully ideas from tonight will be put into legislature for a future Council meeting.

There was general agreement with this idea. Other ideas voiced were:

- Need something that would bring proper people there.
- Possibly a dog park for smaller dogs to draw families (current dog park near Community Park sometimes has larger dogs there that scare the smaller dogs); this may result in families coming there for picnics.
- Maybe a shelter house or gazebo or other updates to the park, there is plenty of space that could be utilized to have this park become an asset to the downtown area.

Thanks were offered to the Parks Department for all that they already do.

It was questioned if the possibility that the bank is ready to get rid of the land and could give it to the City is hearsay (Mr. Brewer forwarded to Mr. Fiser contact information for First National

Bank to request the land to be given to the city; it was noted the City does not currently mow that land).

Connie Hench is preparing a grant through the Lions Club to use towards Cherry Street Park. She wants to get items that are handicapped accessible. Other ideas included:

- Need to get more Clyde organizations involved.
- Do not get too much at Cherry Street Park or it may get too cluttered.
- Would like to have Anderson Park at its original location, but would understand if it is somewhere else.
- Maybe it would get enrollment up for local clubs if they get involved with more community projects.
- Divide the work between all of the clubs so there is not just one who is doing all of the work.
- Eagle Scouts need projects to do (it is rumored that Jean Jackson's son is doing an Eagle Scout project related to Thad Hurd, and it must be completed by October 31).
- Some families have a big and a small dog, so two separate parks would cause a problem for them. Maybe divide current dog park for the different sizes by having different entrances.

Mr. Brewer's original goal was for signs to designate a park for Anderson and Hurd. Other items discussed:

- There is currently no good playground equipment at Cherry Street Park.
- Possibly write a grant for a wheelchair swing and other accessible equipment.
- The Anderson Society would need a letter from Mr. Fiser that Council is open to this idea.
- Grants would be awarded in August, but we would have until February to spend the money.
- Reclaim Cherry Street Park as a neighborhood park; currently, some residents do not allow their children to walk through the park due to assumed inappropriate activity.
- Long term planning suggestion is to have a brochure to list Clyde parks and available activities; maybe this could be a bed tax project, which is for promoting Clyde.
- If the bank donates the land, maybe that area could be Anderson and Railroad Park and Cherry Street Park could be Hurd Park; that would leave Limerick Park for future re-naming after a Clyde person.

The first step is to determine park names and get appropriate signs, then work on other upgrades.

- Should the signs be metal? Recyclable? They should all be uniform and be long lasting.
- The brown signs that Clyde in Bloom used at the ends of the bike trail are nice as they are not too big, there could be the same coloring throughout the City with the same engraving.
- The Parks Department signs are currently beige and green.
- OSS is always doing grant cycles, so we could do an entire grant just for signage.
- All grants to improve parks would be welcomed by the City.
- Maybe the Scouts could assist the city crews to put up the signs.

- The grant through the Lions Club is due Tuesday, and it needs a letter of support from Mr. Fiser.
- Only City or Council representatives have the authority to talk to the bank about their donation of land (which is also used for the Fair and the Go-Kart race).
- Have a Council Resolution to give their stamp of approval for the Anderson Society committee to come up with a plan to improve the parks; then the committee would work with Mr. Fiser for their ideas, before getting Council's approval as new ideas are planned.
- Once a Resolution is passed the committee members are ready to move forward; the Sherwood Anderson Society is already formed, with the task of renaming a park for Anderson and Hurd.
- It would be a Resolution of support for naming a park (the location does not need to be designated yet) for Anderson and Hurd.

We would need to get buy-in from the residents who live near Cherry Street Park to take ownership to improve it and to not turn their head to any illegal activity occurring there (there are some residents near Cherry Street Park who call frequently for non-illegal activity). Mr. Fiser is not opposed to the City accepting a donation of land from the bank, but he is not supportive of having a park there as the City needs to shove snow there and it would not be a good location for kids due to the roads close by (the area where the Sherwood sign is already placed - keep the grassy area there instead of more parking; it would be nice to have a couple trees for shade and picnic tables there for people from the bike trail).

Mrs. Farrar suggested reclaiming that whole area (where the current Anderson sign is, and the grassy area that may be donated by the bank) as Anderson Plaza. It already seems like Anderson Park because it is already a lovely and respectable area; maybe the current fountain could be named Anderson fountain. Further discussion included:

- Would the bank still donate the land if it would not be used as a park?
- If they donate the land then, okay, but she is not in favor of spending one dime on purchasing it.
- If trees are planted there they might get clipped by snow plows.
- What is the inappropriate activity at Cherry Street Park? Drugs? Barking dogs? Smoking? (drugs).
- Yes, we need to have residents call in for drug activity, but not for someone bouncing a basket ball there.
- Do not improve the park for a nicer place for drug activity – this activity needs to be addressed first.
- Have wheelchair accessible playground equipment integrated with regular playground equipment – integrate all families.
- Previously there were complaints of no playground being available on the other side of Rt. 20.
- Agree with the need to set priorities of what to accomplish first.
- With the guests that are here tonight, is there someone from the Museum or the Heritage League (no). Diversity of various group representation on this committee is important.
- Clyde in Bloom is commended for their passion for volunteer work and their tireless effort; Mrs. Farrar has never seen anything like this before.

- Clyde Business & Professional Association membership is dwindling, but the Lions Club has proven that a small group can make a big difference (skate park).
- Mr. Brewer has been trying to get wheelchair swings at Community Park for many years.
- Would it work to put the sensory park at Community Park? (no, persons who would use a sensory park need to have less distractions; by having the sensory park at Cherry Street Park the committee would like to spread things out).
- Thank you for the nice comments about Clyde in Bloom; Connie gets many calls from people in other towns who want to have the same in their town/area.
- If we have more chairs and tables that need to be set around town maybe they could be put in Cherry Street Park (the furniture must be anchored to concrete).
- Clyde in Bloom did get input from City staff as to where benches could be placed along the sidewalk downtown; can the furniture be moved in the future (yes); we need to continue to rebuild downtown. The Fremont Visitors Bureau suggests developing a map of Clyde for visitors to tour all the flowers/gardens.

Final thoughts:

- Thank you to Council for being open to these suggestions/ideas.
- We need a park brochure for availability at the Visitors Bureau and at gas stations along Rt. 20.
- The Moose and Eagles have made donations in the past.
- Does the Key Club at the high school do community service? (yes) Also FFA has community service requirements.
- Have youth help with developing the park, then they will take ownership in it and not vandalize it.
- Expect people to help and maintain the park(s).

Council will get the ball rolling, then the committee will bring their ideas to Council for approval.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Black announced the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



 G. Scott Black, Mayor



 Janet R. Dickman, Clerk of Council

CLYDE CITY COUNCIL
VISITOR SIGN-IN

DATE: 6/23/15 Work session

1. Mary Waugh
2. James Huey
3. John Brewer
4. Pam Zentene
5. Bradley Massman The Clyde Enterprise
6. Al Lewis
7. Connie Hench
8. David Mason
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