

**MINUTES**  
**Goshen Parks and Recreation Commission**  
**February 25, 2025 at 6:00PM**  
**Goshen City Hall, 244 Clark Street**

**A meeting of the Goshen Parks and Recreations Commission was held on February 25, 2025 at 6:00pm at the Goshen City Hall**

**Call to Order:** Danielle Edwards @ 6:07

**Roll Call:** PRESENT - Danielle Edwards, Mike Nimmo, Linda Moore,

6:08 - Nathan Snipes

**Approval of Agenda:** Danielle Edwards made a motion to approve; Mike Nimmo Seconded;

Roll Call was adjusted (names)

Add to New Business - Discussion of Future of The Parks (Mike Nimmo)

All in Favor - None Opposed

**Approval of Minutes from January 28, 2025** - Linda Moore made a motion to Table until next meeting and Mike Nimmo seconded. All in Favor - None Opposed

**Old Business** - Design Scapes Updates

Design Scapes has provided an updated plan with a lot more plants. Notation of plants that have been re-arranged and added to address the sparse areas; colored plan rendering presented and reviewed by the commission. Mike Nimmo asked for clarity on a bush/shrub (name is unknown) that is in planned in relative abundance - identified as a shrub that would work nicely in the specific area;

Danielle advised that Mayor Stroud has given approval for Design Scapes to start this update ASAP.

Linda Moore commented regarding the potential damaging of the area by Crossland driving over this area;

Danielle added that Crossland is not allowed on the grassed area - only the City is allowed to drive on the area.

Linda Moore asked for clarity on the 'open space' on rendering and that has been identified as parking and Danielle confirmed. Abby that the parking is wide enough for cars to be parked on both sides with still providing enough space for cars to get down the middle of the lot.

Linda Moore asked for clarity on what was determined to be the trail from the park to the community building (connection). Abby added that there is a culvert following Linda's question regarding drainage on the rendering. Linda Moore asked about still having a walk-in entrance (two of them) and Danielle confirmed (the walk-in trail down below on the adjoining property's lot where the salamander pond is). Abby added, following a conversation with Mayor Stroud (recently), that the Grant we applied for, that it is primarily for 'screening' -

“while we are landscaping the southern entrance, we are also providing the neighboring properties the privacy that they need from this public park entrance”. Hope to take away the traffic from the main walking path and make the south entrance the main entrance.

### **New Business - Outreach Projects**

Danielle believes we (committee) need to get out and do outreach projects. She indicates we have to have 5 outreach projects in order to get the most allotted points with the Grants. Abby added that the State Grant that we were awarded for the pavilion (the one w/sign up sheets worked smoothly) and to avoid scrambling to get prepared for Grant(s) and Danielle agreed. Abby offered that for all outreach projects, she can print off sign-in sheets, comment sheets, etc. Danielle further clarified that for it to qualify as ‘outreach’, we have to go TO the group; not them come to us. Abby confirmed.

Danielle went through the previous list of recommendations for outreach being:

The Riding Club

Boy Scouts

The Book Club

Historical Society

Homemakers

Mike Nimmo discussed a program done by Russell Gayer that he attended and felt that it would’ve been a good opportunity for a 5-minute presentation about the park and an outreach project. Discussion that the commission needs to keep our eyes and ears open for possible opportunities such as this. Abby discussed that Orthodox Brewery is holding the Seed Swap this year and because the City is not affiliated with that, there’s no farmers market from our market, so this is a potential one to sign up for; Danielle indicated that she would sign up for the seed swap.

It was asked of Linda Moore if she wanted to do the Historical Society in March? Linda stated on 4/29 that Jana Vandenberg (Activities Committee) is speaking at the March Historical Society meeting (on the history of Goshen) and Linda wouldn’t mind talking at that particular meeting and she will ask if they will allow her to speak also. She’d like to talk about the history of the Spring House and that Russell Gayer has pictures of the Spring House from the 1940s and she will seek permission from Russell Gayer and make sure that it flows with what they have planned (for their meeting). Danielle confirmed that would be great but also further stated that there are specific questions that need to be asked in order to fulfill the ‘requirements’ necessary for Outreach Projects and receive our points, to keep it to about 5 minutes, and make sure you are asking questions directly - Question such as:

What do you want to see in the park differently?

How do you see the parks?

Are you happy with the parks?

What would you like to see in the future of the parks?

Further Criteria for qualification of an Outreach Project:

We went to their meeting;

They can't come to us;

We asked them (attendees) what they thought of the park, we received their input, and we wrote down their answers;

They don't have to be from here (Goshen residents) but the Group has to be a Goshen Group.

Danielle went to each vendor of the Farmers Market and asked questions (in the past) and that qualifies as outreach; having a booth at the Farmers Market does not qualify because public is coming to you.

Responses to the questions need to be written down and who actually responded (Names) and then we hand out papers, anonymously you (attendee) can write anything about the parks that you want us to know (and that's how we get our points).

Abby advised that she can add a question on the Comment sheets and Danielle indicated it has to be an open-ended question(s) where attendees can put whatever they want (ex how do you feel about the park?; tell us what you like about the park; anything that attendees want to share. Danielle doesn't want it to be repetitive and she advises to keep these 'presentations' and 'survey's short and keep any questions/input short, sweet, and simple. Linda asked for clarification on getting the paper (answers) before we leave and Danielle confirmed, yes, you have to have proof that you went there and the paper (answers) will suffice for that proof. Linda confirmed that she will attend the Historical meeting (4/29) upon approval from Russell Gayer.

Homeschooling Group - Danielle will look into when they meet.

Abby advised she will make Comment sheets, sign-in sheets, etc. and Danielle asked that it be uniformed and Abby agreed. Abby further offered a new survey be made (such as for City-Day at the Farmers Market) - police and fire dept came out last year and we potentially do this again and prepare a new survey for that event to take advantage of having a booth at the Farmers Market.

Linda Moore offered to take the survey to the Activities Committee stating that they (Activities Committee) walked the park and she met them up there and Danielle confirmed that WOULD qualify as Outreach. Nathan offered that his wife is part of a mom's group and it was confirmed that this type of set up would also qualify. What do young mom's want out of the park?

### **Future of the Park (General Discussion)**

Fencing project (The fence around the whole perimeter of the park that is overgrown) - Abby asked everyone in the office if they knew anything about the gentlemen who offered to take the fencing (barbed wire) down and no one knew. Mike Nimmo offered that we can assume that he is not going to be doing anything with the fence and we should move forward with working on removing the fence w/o him and that this is the time of year to do this with minimal growth and ticks and chiggers. Abby will ask Mayor Stroud if he can attempt to get ahold of the gentleman and/or confirm for the Committee to move forward.

Mike Nimmo asked about (down the road) a splash pad for Goshen and if/when we do something like that, can it be placed up by the new pavilion vs. the community center. Says it's a good way to get people up nearer to the park for awareness but also shared concern about needing to have the water lines (potentially) replaced because he is unsure that what is currently there could handle a splash pad capacity. Abby says, yes, Mayor Stroud is

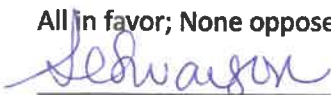
considering that (pavilion) location and added that a gentlemen that is an avid Disc-Golfer reached out to the City and that his group of people are willing to come out and place the equipment that the City already has in a way that makes sense and attracts people to the park (area) and the potential for this group to 'maintain' this area for the City. Danielle confirmed that it takes a lot of maintenance with mowing, etc., and City staff can't keep up with it. Mike Nimmo mowed a lot of the trail last year and to have additional areas to maintain is challenging for the City/volunteers. Mike supports Abby following through on that lead and to see how we can develop that volunteer relationship.

Mike Nimmo advised that a citizen noticed an erosion problem at the spillway of the big pond (the fishing pond). The earth and dam is starting to erode and getting leakage on the sides; citizen feels it would be good for us to create something there that is more resistant to erosion (concrete, stand pipe with a gate to relieve pressure) and that may also be a good time to drain the lake, take out the earth and dam, dredge the pond, maybe build some type of stone or some type of banking around the edge of the pond. Once done, it would come to a higher level, look better, stay cleaner, and be more accessible to bank fishing. Abby added with the conservation easement, the City has to be careful about the kind of equipment that will be used in that area. She further offered that we can have a pond that becomes a 'Game and Fish' pond (following a lot of work) and we can take point from Game and Fish on how to, while maintaining the rules of the environmental assessment, how we can be careful in what we want to do with the pond. There was discussion with the author of the environmental assessment and they indicated as long as the City partners with people like that (or the Corp of Engineers), they will lead us in the right direction with getting that done (making it healthy). Danielle offered the need for a Grant to help offset some of that costs.

Mike Nimmo offered, based on the discussions/meeting of environmental assessment, before the conservation easement is done, now is the time to get all this work done (dredging, laying rock) before we get locked in to something that can't be changed; a lot goes into becoming a conservation easement and takes control out of the City's hands to make decisions with what you can and can't do in your own park. Linda Moore asked about what a conservation easement does - Danielle responded that in 50 years, the easement will be a protection so that no one can go in and bulldoze it or do anything to it. Abby added that in the HUD Grant (inside the environmental assessment portion of it) that the City was going to explore a conservation easement for the park and that we are committed because it's tied to a Grant. Mike Nimmo added that the due diligence has/is being completed and because it has been 'discussed' it is meeting the requirement in the Grant.

**Public Input - None**

Mike Nimmo made a motion to adjourn; Danielle seconded  
All in favor; None opposed - Adjournment at 6:52pm



Gina Swanson  
Recorder/Treasurer



Russell Stroud  
Mayor

