

**Community Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2021**

Mr. Haskins called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Present: Ted Haskins, Kyle Mitchell and Ben Redman

Staff: City Manager, Michael Doss and Finance Director Pat Wirthlin

Visitors: Jo Ann Weigel, Joyce Snell and Brian Rowe

Proceedings: *Approve the proceedings from the May 10, 2021 Community Development Committee Minutes. Mr. Redman made a motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Mitchel.*

Presentation: Five Points Landing Project Updates Cost Estimates/Phases

Mr. Doss presented the committee with updated cost estimates from MSP Engineering for the proposed Five Points Landing Park located on the former Milford Main School site. Mr. Doss stated that the overall cost estimated for the park increased from \$6.4 million to \$7.7 million respectively. Mr. Doss presented the park in three phases: Phase I – Base Park which includes several greenspace areas for outdoor entertainment purposes, walking paths, parking, a farmers market, fountain feature and landscaping throughout the park area. Mr. Doss indicated that Phase I would cost approximately \$2.8 million. Phase II – Pavilion includes a multi-purpose pavilion that would provide indoor capabilities for performances, a community center, small conferences, art showings, and restroom facilities. Mr. Doss indicated that Phase II would cost approximately \$2.5 million. Phase III – Clock Tower would provide the city with a functional clock tower which would be the focal point of the park and provide visitors with a “birds eye” view of Main Street and the entire park.

Mr. Redman asked if Phase I would include swings and chairs?

Mr. Doss indicated yes, those items were included under site amenities in Phase I base park.

Mr. Redman followed up asking for some clarification on the water feature versus a splash pad.

Mr. Doss indicated that there were some concerns regarding child safety over a splash pad. Mr. Doss emphasized that a fountain feature would have “soft” water flowing instead of a jet-type powered nozzle usually incorporated in a splash pad.

The committee conversation proceeded to shift to cost and future funding for the proposed Five Points Landing project.

Proposed Park and Recreation Levy

Mr. Doss reminded the committee of the recent levy information provided by the Clermont County Auditors Office. Mr. Doss stated that the increased cost estimates for the proposed Five Points Landing Park would not support the levy proceeds received by a 1.5 mill levy that was recently recommended by the committee. Mr. Doss said that a 1.5 mill levy over a five-year term would only provide roughly \$1.4 million and would easily fall short of the \$2.8 million for Phase I of the park project. Mr. Doss indicated that a 3 mil levy would provide enough funds to construct Phase I of the park project.

The committee discussed a 6 mil levy that would provide the funds necessary to complete Phase I and Phase II of the park project.

Mr. Haskins questioned if 6 mil would be too much to ask the citizens of Milford to pay?

Mr. Doss indicated that a 3 mil levy would cost the residents approximately \$157.50 annually and a 6 mil levy would cost the residents approximately \$315 annually based on a home valued at \$150,000.

Mr. Mitchell stated that he has some concerns with a park levy being on the same ballot with a proposed Milford School levy in the fall.

Jo Ann Weigel spoke to the committee about her concern for seniors in the community. Ms. Weigel stated that seniors are on a fixed income, and she didn't believe they would vote in support of a park and recreation levy. Ms. Weigel suggested that the City rent out the existing site for private functions and use those proceeds to make future park improvements.

Joyce Snell respectfully disagrees and believes that the right project and vision for a park at the old Milford Main site would be supported by the community. She further stated that she supports a park and recreation levy.

Mr. Haskins mentioned that three years ago, City Council held several public meetings to gather input from the residents on their vision for the former Milford Main school site.

Brian Rowe asked what was included in the base park?

Mr. Doss restated the items to be included in Phase I (based park) of the project.

The committee agreed to advance the overall Five Points Landing Park project and levy to the full City Council for comment.

Without further Committee discussion....

The Committee agreed to recommend that the Law Director draft an ordinance declaring a necessity for an election for an additional 3.0 mil tax levy as a single levy and ballot issue in excess of the ten-mil limitation for parks and recreation purposes for five years for the City of Milford, Ohio.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m. with a motion from Mr. Redman, Seconded by Mr. Haskins. All agreed.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Doss, City Manager

“These minutes have been approved and adopted by Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Haskins and Mr. Redman on June XX, 2021”