

Coffee with the Mayor

Ser 11

Enjoyed several cups of coffee this past weekend in Portland from the Heart coffee shop. Got to be part of my grandson's 5th birthday party and see 2 of his games! This is my daughter's favorite coffee, but, personally, I enjoyed the time with my daughter and her family more than the coffee.

The Park Board is working on completing a five year plan in which to prepare for possible grants. The board's main focus is Humphrey's Park, but taking into account other park areas in the plan. In preparation for the update a survey was taken to input from the community. This on-line survey started earlier in the year and was made known to the public in several ways. The survey consisted of 10 questions. Survey results will be presented at the July city council meeting but I would like to share the results here as well. In total there were 443 responses although some questions had less answers. One question allowed for open answers while the rest had limited response. Here are the results:

1. Are you a resident of Linton or Stockton Township?

Total 438 Yes 389 (88.81%) No 49 (11.19%)

2. Should Park beautification and safety improvements be a priority?

Total 441 Strongly agree (SA) 318 (72.11%) Agree 111 (25.18%)
Neutral 11 (2.59%) Strongly disagree (SD) 1 (.23%)

3. Does the playground equipment need updating/improved?

Total 440 SA 135 (30.68%) Agree 156 (35.45%)
Neutral 124 (28.18%) Disagree 22 (5.0%)
SD 3 (.68%)

4. Community buildings need improvements?

Total 440 SA 164 (37.37%) Agree 160 (36.36%)
Neutral 101 (22.95%) Disagree 13 (2.95%)
SD 2 (.45%)

5. Historical field stone structure and should be preserved?

Total 443 SA 225 (50.79%) Agree 140 (31.60%)
Neutral 61 (13.77%) Disagree 14 (3.16%)
SD 3 (.68%)

6. Park needs new/improved sport facilities?

Total 439 SA 162 (36.9%) Agree 127 (28.93%)

Neutral 111 (25.28%) Disagree 32 (7.29%)
SD 7 (1/59%)

7. Do you live within walking distance of Humphreys Park?

Total 441 Yes 216 (48.98%) No 225 (51.02%)

8. How would you rate existing recreational facilities in Linton?

Total 443 Very high 22 (4.97%) High 164 (37.02%)
Neutral 196 (44.24%) Low 55 (12.42%)
Very low 6 (1.35%)

9. List improvements that could be made. This will be addressed later.

Total responses 432

10. Would you support adding a trail system connecting Humphreys Park to the Conservation club, Sunset and the Hospital?

Total 435 Yes 379 (87.13%) No 56 (12.87%)

Question 9 had several options to choose from, in addition an opportunity to provide other options was provided. The most selected responses of the provided options were: add lighting to facilities (238), increase beautification (221), add/improve trails (215), improve drainage (246) and update shelter houses (237). There were 110 Other responses submitted. The most frequent response was to add fencing around the small children play areas. Other frequently mentioned responses were the pool, splash pads, pickleball courts, dog parks and open restroom facilities. The complete list will be made available as part of the completed plan. It is the responsibility of the Park Board to act on the results of the survey.

It is clear Humphreys Park is a valuable asset to the community. Upkeep and maintenance of the park is the joint responsibility of city employees, Park Board members and the Pride in the Park organization. Their efforts are greatly appreciated in making the park what it is today. Personally, I enjoy seeing families using the parks' facilities whenever the weather allows. It is tragic when a few community members trash the restroom facilities on a regular basis making them unavailable for all to use. It's your park, enjoy it!

Evan Witty project update: Currently awaiting a timeline from DNR regarding the sink holes. The inactive utility lines and poles have been removed by the city's Electrical Department. The area looks much cleaner. We are also looking at various signage that will be placed at the park entrances. Once we hear from DNR, a timeline will be prepared for the eventual opening.