

VERMILION PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

Minutes of June 17, 2025 - 6:00 p.m.

Tina Swinehart, Chairperson called the meeting of June 17, 2025, to order.

Roll Call: Tina Swinehart, Karen Viterna, Liz Elden, Supt. Dr. David Hile, Connie Laughlin, Phil Dombrowski. Absent: Mark Musial

Also, Present: Marc Weisenberger, Parks Operation Manager; Chad Kuhns, Recreation Director; Mayor Forthofer; Melanie Wood, Clerk of Council

Approval of Minutes:

L. Elden **MOVED**; D. Hile seconded to approve the meeting minutes of May 20, 2025. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS;
MOTION CARRIED.

Correspondence/Presentations:

Marilyn Brill, 1745 Cooper Foster Park Road represented the Brownhelm Historical Association. They have a little free library, and it is a great place for children to go get a book and to keep kids reading all summer. In 2014, they went to the Stocker Center in Lorain County to obtain a little free library and they had permission to put it at the Brownhelm Store at the corner of Baumhart Road and North Ridge Road. The former owner of the store informed them that the little free library had been knocked over and repaired twice so they moved it to the Brownhelm School on North Ridge Road as it had been restored. They obtained permission from the Brownhelm Township Trustees to mount the little free library at the school, thinking all the children who go to the soccer fields and playground would benefit from it. The little free library is registered with Lorain County, and they have maintained it with books. She is here this evening on behalf of the Brownhelm Historical Association to ask permission of the Parks Board to put a little free library at Showse Park once it is ready for that type of entertainment for the children. She is also a part of the Friends of the Library, and the president of that group wanted to put a little free library at Showse Park as well. M. Brill suggested the Friends of the Library put their little free library in another part of town or in Erie County and they were in agreement. She said maybe the board would have other ideas within the Brownhelm Township area of the city that a little free library could go. They would like permission to build the little free library to resemble the Vermilion Clubhouse. There are people in their group who have talent that could recreate the clubhouse. Some of the boxes that were made for the little free libraries resembled a firehouse or a church who were sponsoring the libraries. These were made by the Grafton Correction Facility and those imprisoned put their talents to work and built the libraries back then and she hopes they are still being maintained today. Again, she is asking for permission for a little free library – they have a lot of books, and suggestions for where it could be placed at Showse Park. She is aware Sherod Park has one coming. M. Weisenburger asked if this would take place of the library Rini suggested from the Friends of the Library. M. Brill answered yes, they would build one and get it registered through the Lorain County Community Foundation so it would be registered at Showse Park. Usually, they put them by playground equipment or by a bench where people can sit and take a book. It is important especially since school is out now; to maintain reading for these youngsters, some parents don't read stories to their children.

T. Swinehart said she is sure they can find a place for it in the park, and they will work with Marc to make it happen.

Community Event Group Use Permits:

-Joe Price – Event: Community Concert Series; Date of Use: July 26 and August 16, 2025, from 6pm to 9:30pm; Victory Park; August 2 and August 30, 2025, from 6pm to 9:30pm; Friendship Park

Joe Price explained like last year; he is asking for permission to have four more concerts in town. These concerts will be for groups that are generally from Vermilion. He taught here for 28 years and lived here for over 30 years and there are other people in the group that have either taught or lived here. He does not think they get enough chances to perform. Last year they had three concerts planned and this year he has four. They will all be on Saturday nights, spaced through the end of July and into August. They don't plan concerts following Third Thursdays. The concert will start at 7pm and will last for about an hour and a half to two hours. The dates will be July 26, August 2, August 16, and August 30, 2025. They will need to make sure the electricity is turned on so they can run the amplifier.

T. Swinehart asked if he coordinated with the Main Street events happening in the parks as well. J. Price said he spoke with Sandy at the Chamber of Commerce, and she gave him a list of events, and he didn't see any conflicts. He knows on some Saturday afternoons at Victory Park there is the afternoon farmers' market, but they are done by 5pm. Last year with the three groups, they had an average of 45 people come to hear them play and they are happy to do it because they love playing for hometown folks. T. Swinehart noted the rain date of August 9. J. Price said it is hard to reschedule a large group of people so he had that date, but chances are if the weather is bad, they will not reschedule.

L. Elden MOVED; D. Hile seconded to approve the use of Victory Park and Friendship Park for the Community Concert Series on July 26, August 2, August 16, and August 30, 2025, from 6pm to 9:30pm with a possible rain date of August 9, 2025. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

-Bonnie Meyer; Rotary Club of Vermilion – Event: Rotary Pancake Breakfast; Date of Use: July 11, 2025, from 3pm to 8pm and July 12, 2025, from 6am to 2pm; Parks Department Garage

T. Swinehart said the Rotary Club would like to use the Parks Board garage for a pancake breakfast. They are requesting to set up on July 11 at noon until set up is complete and then the pancake breakfast will be on July 12 with set-up beginning at 6:30am and going until 1:00pm. It has been cleared through the parks manager, and they have done it in the past, so she does not believe there are any conflicts.

L. Elden MOVED; P. Dombrowski seconded to approve the use of the Parks Department Garage for the Rotary Pancake Breakfast on July 11, 2025, from 3pm to 8pm and July 12, 2025, from 6am to 2pm. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

-Avery Schneider; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District – Event: Vermilion West Pier Ribbon Cutting; Date of Use: June 18, 2025, from 10:30am to 12:30pm; Main Street Beach and Park

T. Swinehart said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are planning a Vermilion West Pier Ribbon Cutting for June 18, 2025. It will begin at 11:30am and they are requesting use of the park between 10:30am and 12:30pm at Main Street Beach.

Mayor Forthofer said Congresswoman Kaptur will be in attendance along with himself and a few others. The event will happen rain or shine and will cut the ribbon at the top of the hill where the pier is visible. It is a big deal, the project cost \$23 million. T. Swinehart asked if everyone was welcome to the ribbon cutting. Mayor Forthofer answered yes, everyone is welcome.

L. Elden MOVED; K. Viterna seconded to approve the use of Main Street Beach and Park for the Vermilion West Pier Ribbon Cutting on June 18, 2025, from 10:30am to 12:30pm. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

City Council Representative Report: No report.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Forthofer said this is Festival Season and Marc always prepares the parks so nicely. If they tell him something is happening, it is in tip top shape. He congratulated Marc and his crew. The Fish Festival was great despite the rain, and all events took place. It was good attendance even with the weather and they are off to a good start to the season.

Recreation Director's Report:

Chad Kuhns reported that they are halfway through baseball season and football sign-up deadline is July 11. T. Swinehart asked when the baseball season ends. C. Kuhns answered the season ends the week of July 4 and tournaments will begin after. T. Swinehart asked when the football season will begin. C. Kuhns answered August 1.

Service Director's Report: No Report.

Parks Operation Manager Report:

Marc Weisenberger appreciated the mayor's comments on the parks. Recently, they counted 10-11 volunteers helping to get the parks in the shape they are in. The volunteers come in and help on a regular basis, so it is a huge team effort which doesn't include all the things Vermilion in Bloom does. They really appreciate it is important those people are thanked as well.

This month, they are working on the memorial benches that have been donated over the last few months. They are getting the sandstone bases put in and the benches mounted at several different parks. They are also installing new pet waste stations and various signs.

The bid opening for the new restrooms at Sherod Park has been completed. Norwalk Concrete Industries were the only bidder and due to the type of build they are the only one in the state of Ohio to do those types of builds.

The bid was \$77,460.00 which is well within the budget of \$85,000 which was the amount of the grant from Erie County Commissioners. There is another reading before city council and then they will have a few months in producing the building and hopefully it will be installed in the fall.

M. Weisenberger thanked T. Valerius for working with them on getting the storm sewer right in front of the pool tied in with the storm sewer from the splash pad. The catch basin needed repaired, and the repairs took place at the same time. T. Swinehart said she loves cooperation.

T. Swinehart asked M. Weisenberger for a list of the volunteers who have helped at the parks so they can thank them in some way.

Budget/Finance Subcommittee Report:

L. Elden reported that she touched base with M. Weisenberger briefly and things are trending as expected. They have wiggle room in Fund 204 should something come up.

Main Street Beach Revitalization Project:

T. Swinehart reported they have a beautiful patio thanks to Vermilion in Bloom's donation. There are four tables with umbrellas on the patio thanks to the Shore Thing. There are still some things to get in place, but it looks beautiful, and it is busy. They still have some signs to install; they still have a welcome sign to add to the pump house. A lot more to happen but they are making good progress. She thanked Marc and his crew for getting all of it together.

M. Weisenberger stated the foot wash shower will be delivered tomorrow so they will get it installed in the next week or so.

Showse Park Revitalization & Transformation Project:

P. Dombrowski said there was a manufacturer error on a piece of the exercise equipment that had to get sent back and it is now fixed. They will get a date set to finalize and get the exercise equipment put in place. The playground has been delivered. He presented the board with drawings of the recommended layout for Showse Park which is attached hereto and incorporated herein as a part of the official records of proceedings. He reported they are in agreement with Lorain County Veterans Services on the new location of the flagpole which will be on the southwest corner of the mound by the playground. D. Hile clarified that the Lorain County Veterans Services agreed to the location on the drawings presented before them. T. Swinehart answered yes. P. Dombrowski noted the drawing shows the flag as a 4x8 foot flag, however it will be a 12x18 flag on a 60-foot flagpole. M. Weisenberger said it would be the same size as the one at Main Street Beach and Park. P. Dombrowski said they worked with a resident who found a great lighting source for the flag which will be down lighting for poles and flags larger than what they have, and it can be dialed down. T. Swinehart asked if it would be LED lighting or what type of lighting it would be. P. Dombrowski answered it will be LED lighting and can be bright white but can also dim down to the warm yellowish color as well. M. Weisenberger said it has a dimmer system and will shine down, and it is electric. T. Swinehart asked how it would be dimmed, would they have to call in an electrician? P. Dombrowski said he could easily go to dim it depending on the situation and what is going on at Showse on that particular day, you do not need an electrician. M. Weisenberger said it would help with the overall cost of the park as well because they will be able to utilize some of the same sidewalks and electricity for the playground and access to the flagpole and public art. P. Dombrowski said it gives the opportunity to light up the public art piece as well. M. Weisenberger said yes with potential soft light. It will

also give the opportunity to give power to the middle shelter house for security cameras and anything else they might need electric for. T. Swinehart said it is a pretty central location, and it is also closer to the ball fields. She thanked P. Dombrowski, his committee and Jeff Lucas for leading it along with Marc.

Recreation and School Relations: No report.

Vermilion Community Pool Subcommittee:

K. Viterna reported the pool opened on time, unfortunately the rain has knocked down a lot of the days of using the pool. Swimming lessons under way and they are sold out, so it has been a good start to the season. She noted the membership is the highest number they have had so far. T. Swinehart said it is a little over 150. K. Viterna said everything at the pool is running well. They do have some special events they are planning for members or anyone in the community and the sponsorship campaign is coming along fine. You will notice the banners of people and groups who have supported the pool with donations, and they are sponsoring special events that are happening there. Sponsors include Rotary Club, American Legion, Bramhall Engineering, Ken and Nancy Bliss, the Fraternal Order of Police and they have been very fortunate to have a good response to this initial sponsorship request. T. Swinehart said they are very fortunate for community support in a lot of different ways. Rotary Club had a lot of volunteers there on the first night of swimming lessons so they get financial support and volunteer support so the pool will continue on which is their goal. Hopefully the splashpad will be in soon, but the paperwork is still held up in Columbus. M. Weisenberger said it is on the last step and is to the supervisor and once they get his approval, they are good, which should be any day. L. Elden asked once the papers are approved at the state, is it plug and play? M. Weisenburger said the contractors want to get started as badly as they do because it is their next project. He emphasized to them not to start any other projects, so we are next on their list.

Public Art Subcommittee:

L. Elden reported the next quarterly meeting will be in July and the requests for proposals have gone out for the Sherod Park artwork and they are waiting to review those as a board.

Recreation Department Subcommittee:

T. Swinehart said she is in the process of recruiting a couple of people so they can continue the work of the past committee that John Ross headed up so they can keep moving forward with the recreation department.

Rotary Park Subcommittee: No Report

Pickleball Subcommittee:

C. Laughlin stated she drove to the pickleball courts before the meeting, and she spoke with Marc as well. She asked M. Weisenberger if the drive to the road would be gravel. M. Weisenberger answered it will be a gravel base with compacted millings until they have the funds to pave the whole thing. Once you get to the drive from where it opens up to the shelter house there will be a sidewalk with a curb that will run the whole length of the parking lot which will tie into the sidewalk that wraps around the perimeter of the new courts. C. Laughlin asked when the courts would be painted. M. Weisenberger answered the blacktop has been down for a couple

of weeks and they would like to give it at least a month to cure so the oils don't come back up through the coating. The fence company was there yesterday and put in the rest of the posts. The next step is to pour the sidewalks and once that is done, the blacktop will be ready for the topcoat. C. Laughlin asked if they would be ready in July. M. Weisenberger answered yes, he believes so.

C. Laughlin said she contacted Marc about a board stating rules because it will be important for them to set some sort of parameter since there are only two courts. T. Swinehart asked if they would have to schedule people there. C. Laughlin answered she doesn't think so, they should just open it and let people play and use the paddle system to get it started and see where they go from there. She asked M. Weisenberger how they would go about getting a sign. M. Weisenberger answered they would have to decide what they would want it to say, and he can send it to the sign companies to see what they can do. T. Swinehart asked if the law director would have to approve anything with it. M. Weisenberger answered yes, they usually do. He stated the sign that is out front at West Breeze Park will be repainted.

OPEN TO THE AUDIENCE:

Helen Taft said she is sorry about the flag debacle at Showse Park, and it took a little bit of wind out of the sail in the neighborhood. They appreciate having a flag in the park and asked for clarification where it would be. T. Swinehart answered it will be close to the shelter in the front middle of the park up on the mound. H. Taft asked if it would be on the mound with the playground equipment and said it would be drier there. She asked if they have to have special engineering for that since it is close to the playground equipment. M. Weisenberger answered no. H. Taft said it is just so big, she is worried about it falling over. P. Dombrowski said everything is anchored and they will be digging about 8 feet deep in order to place the concrete base. M. Weisenberger said the flagpole comes with engineered drawings for the base as well. H. Taft said another concern she had with the flag being this large, and the wind they get. At one time the group Flags for Liberty used to put flags up on that part of town, but they don't do it anymore because they said the wind is just too bad. We are already baking cakes for the playground, so how do they replace the large flags all the time. L. Elden said they have discussed as a committee when the wind is at a certain strength, they will ask P. Dombrowski to lower the flag. T. Swinehart said the Lorain County Veterans Commission promised replacement flags anytime they need them. T. Swinehart told H. Taft she appreciated that she came before the parks board in the past voicing concerns for the night sky and they have the same concerns she is voicing as well and hopefully they are addressing as best they can to make the park enjoyable to everyone. H. Taft said she is glad that some of the folks who were so unhappy with the location of the flag and the lighting, and she doesn't think anyone meant any disrespect and believes the downward lighting is a benefit to the environment and everyone and thanked the board members.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

T. Swinehart said they would need a motion to approve the Showse Park site plan as presented. P. Dombrowski answered right now they would need to approve the public art, the flagpole, and the playground equipment locations. T. Swinehart said they are not approving of the plaza around the flagpole at this time. P. Dombrowski answered that is correct, that is just a rendering of what it could be, and it would be on the same mound as the

playground but will also be its own identity as well. T. Swinehart confirmed the public art is on the northwest corner of the mound.

L. Elden MOVED; C. Laughlin seconded to accept the site plan for Showse Park as submitted to include the flagpole, playground equipment, and public art location with other elements to be added later. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT:

Tina Swinehart adjourned the meeting upon no further discussion.

NEXT MEETING:

July 15, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.

Location: Vermilion Municipal Complex, 687 Decatur Street, Vermilion

Transcribed by - Melanie Wood, Clerk of Council



SL landscape
structures

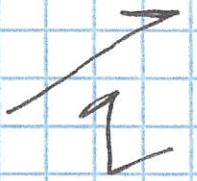
Showse Park

PEN193725-02-05-Comp - 4.4.2025

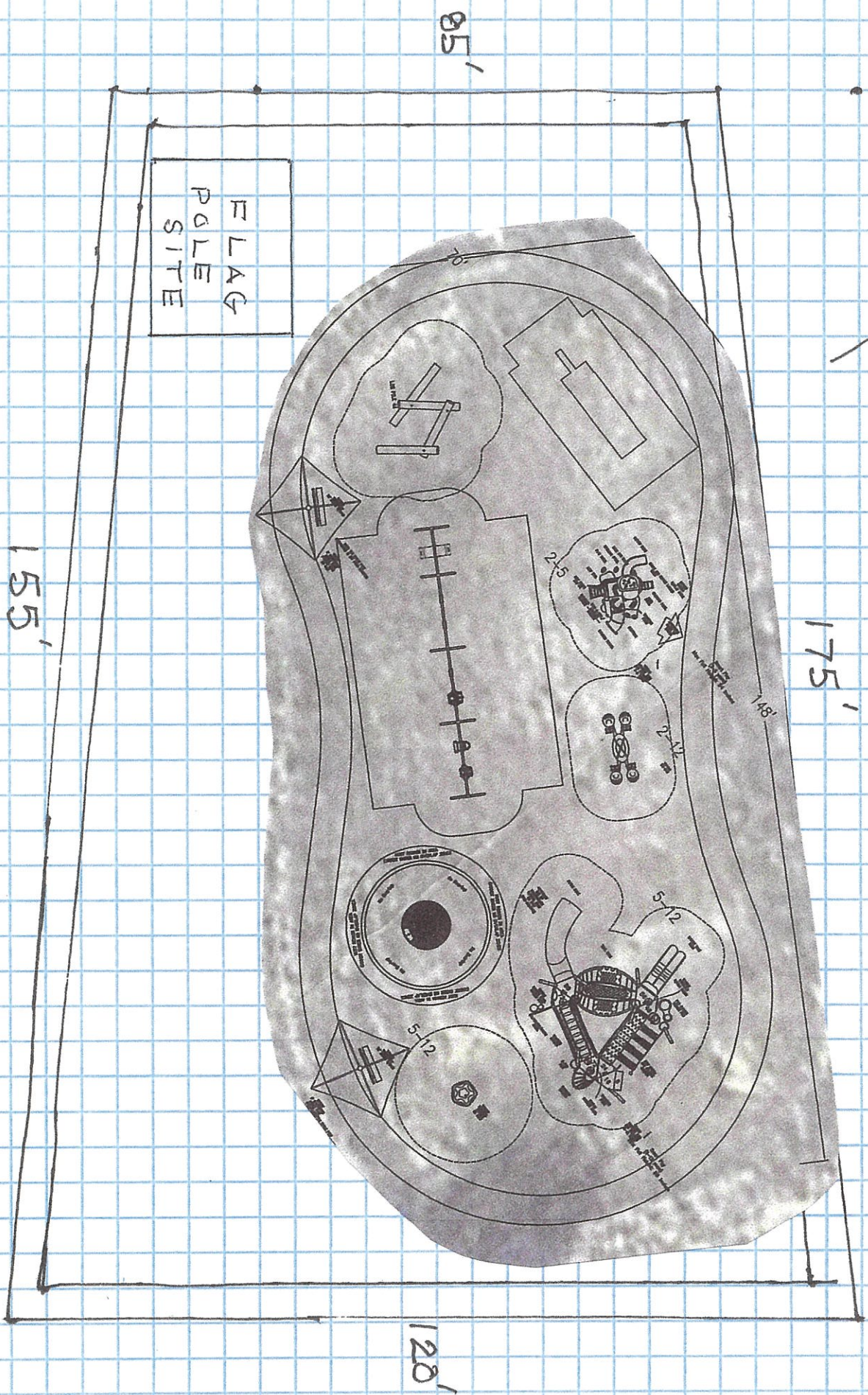
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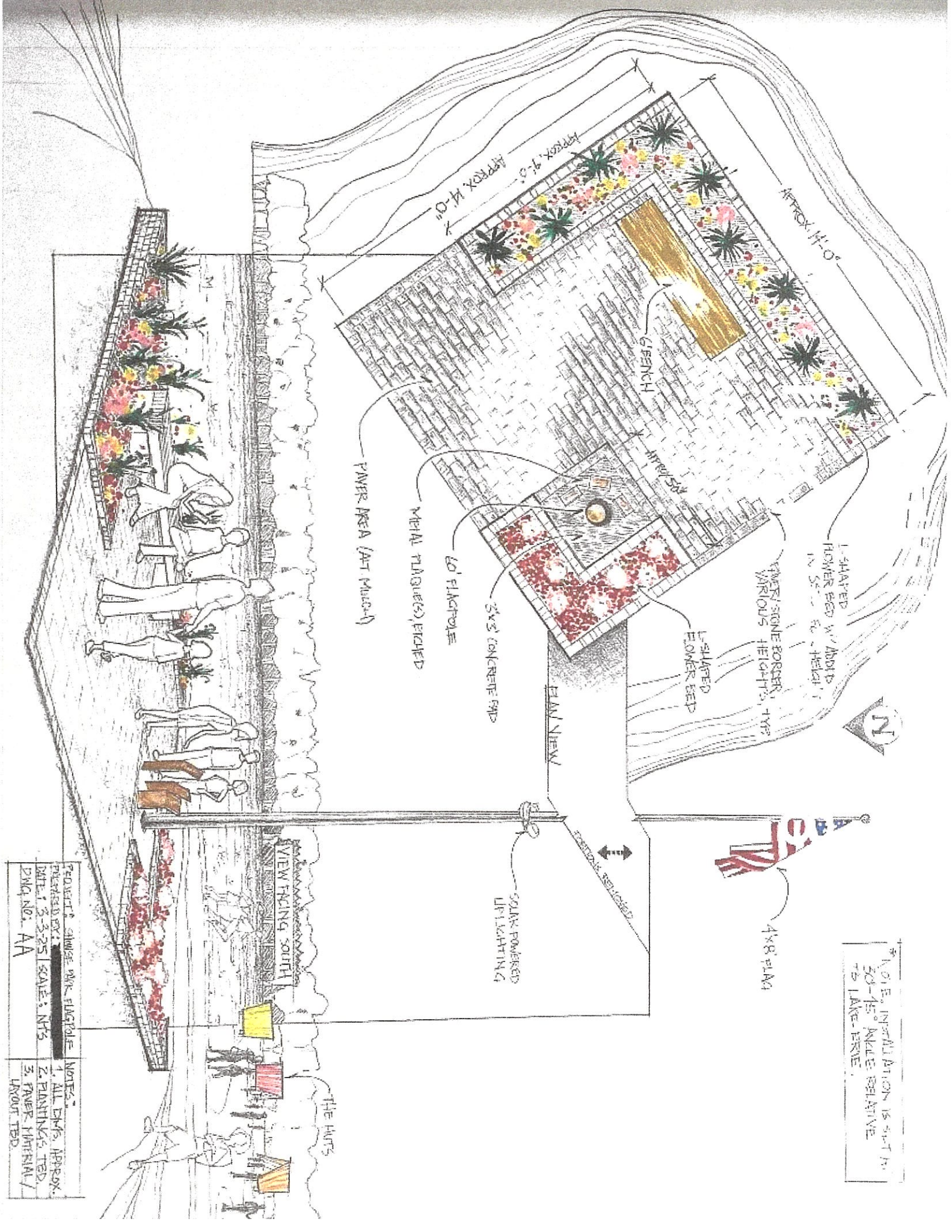




PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
; FLAG POLE LOCATION
NOT TO SCALE







* N.O.E. INSTALLATION IS 50-150' N.E. OF LAKE-EDGE.

PROJECT: CHURCH PARK FLAGPOLE	NOTES:
DESIGNED BY: [REDACTED]	1. ALL DIMS. APPROX.
DATE: 3-3-25	2. PLANTING: TBD
DWG. NO.: AA	3. FLOWER MATERIAL /
	LAYOUT: TBD