

## Coffee with the Mayor

### Ser 34 (2025-8) Park Fixtures

A lot has happened since my last Coffee with the Mayor. Don't really want to go into detail here, but will say there has been a lot of soul searching regarding my future endeavors and decisions. I think it's good for everyone, once in a while, to pause and consider the current, look at the potential ahead and adjust, if needed, on the path to take. If I remember my college classes, there was a famous philosopher that wrote "an unexamined life is not worth living", or something like that. You get the idea.

Maybe I should focus this coffee on a somewhat lighter issue, the park, specifically Humphrey's Park. There are two fixtures at that location that I would like to discuss. One is pretty much a fixed asset and the second is, let's say, a semi-fixed asset. The semi-fixed asset is the "tank" located at the southwest corner next to the golf course. This is a M60 tank that was obtained from the Indiana National Guard. This series of tank first became operational in 1959 and saw service in National Guard units as late as 1997, so it's been around for some time. Contrary to popular belief, the city does not own this tank. The tank is actually on loan by the United States Army Donations Program Office located in Warren, MI. We update the tanks' status and condition to this office annually. It, the tank, is not ours to relocate within the city or anywhere else. If the decision is made to give it up, the donations office is notified, and they will identify an organization requesting a M60 tank and make the arrangements to have it moved.

The question is, does the tank fit with the overall theme of the park? Signs have been added stating not to climb on the tank after there were injuries. There will soon be a need to repaint the tank based on years of weathered exposure. At one time, it would have been fitting to have the tank placed at the local National Guard Armory. That is no longer an option. Would that

location, if the tank were moved, be better served to have a veterans' memorial with service flags and a monument?

The second park fixture that is a fixed asset is the log cabin. I've heard some people say they don't remember seeing a log cabin at the park. It is located directly north of the stage. What I've been told the log cabin was moved there sometime in the 1930's under AW Bull's administration. The last time work was done to the structure was in the 1990's when the porch and metal roof were added. Not much has been done since that time. There are logs that need replaced, work on both the porch and roof is needed plus other updates needed to prevent water intrusion. Like everything else, there is a cost to addressing these needs. There have been craftsmen familiar with cabin design to evaluate what needs to be accomplished and how to accomplish it. We have one more craftsman to meet with who, from my understanding, can provide more background. The intent is to process all this input and determine how best to approach it and what course of action to take. My question is this, how can this cabin best serve the community? What are the options for making this available and for what purpose? Is it worth the cost to keep it or, if not, then what? These are tough questions, and I'd like to hear from the community their idea on how to best utilize this over 100-year-old structure. As with many things, it's a landmark in the park, whether you remember it or not. Let me know at [jpreble@cityoflinton.in.gov](mailto:jpreble@cityoflinton.in.gov) your thoughts on both the tank and cabin.