



MINUTES
OXFORD RECREATION BOARD
COURTHOUSE
MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2023 AT 11:30 AM

Roll Call

The Oxford Parks and Recreation Board meeting was called to order by Casey Wooddell on Monday, August 14, 2023. Members in attendance were: Ken Bogard; Adam Beissel; Alex French; Holli Hansel and Jake Richardson.

Absent - Craig Bennett

Staff Members in attendance - Casey Wooddell and Deanna Barbour

Approval of Agenda

1. Approval of agenda for the 8/14/2023 Oxford Recreation Board meeting.

Motion – To Approve

(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Hansel 2nd Ms. French

AYE # 5

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from May 8, 2023 meeting

Motion – To Approve the Minutes

(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Hansel 2nd Ms. French

AYE # 5

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Reports

1. Parks and Recreation Department Report

Mr. Wooddell stated OPRD will have this year's doggie dip on the last day of the pool opening, Monday, September 4 from 6:00pm - 8:00pm.

So far this year the Aquatic Center has entertained approximately 28,000 visitors.

The biggest positive is that we are fully staffed through Labor Day and have been every weekend since opening. We look pretty good to finish out the year well. Staffing went pretty smooth this summer and not contracting it out was the right decision this year. Ms. Hansel said she hoped this was a better option for Parks and Recreation to keep it in house. Mr. Wooddell agreed, stating this was the best route to go for the summer.

Mr. Wooddell advised flag football has the largest number of players ever. There are 140 players this year adding he does not know if this is affecting Bantam football in any way. Mr. Wooddell noted this year OPRD added kindergarten age to play flag football as well.

Mr. Young asked how the referee search was going? - Mr. Wooddell said Dustin VanWinkle (sports supervisor) is still looking, so if you have anyone interested let him know.

Mr. Beissel noted we have 7 club teams for Oxford United, and about same amount of kids playing soccer but a lot are going towards select teams.

Mr. Wooddell said summer camps ran 42 kids a week average. Preschool and Little Poppers is now our year round child care and we average 12-13 kids a week through summer.

Mr. Wooddell said there is a current bat problem at OCP concession. They are living all around the concession stand with a colony behind the scoreboard.

We had to wait until August so we can seal all areas so the bats can get out but not back in.

Mr. Wooddell shared pictures of new additions at OCP playground. ADA playground project - 99% finished, ADA whirl where wheelchairs can roll on and enjoy the interaction.

The surface has also been added and is all new, along with new music devices and a scavenger hunt activity.

Three Valley Conservation built a board walk at Leonard Howell park leading to the creek.

2. Talawanda School District Report

Mr. Richardson noted fall sports have started. There is a football scrimmage Friday night against Madison and the first home game will be against Fenwick. Mr. Richardson stated our football staff is unbelievable this year.

Mr. Young asked if Mr. Richardson's numbers had dropped because of pay to play. Mr. Richardson said it's too soon to tell right now, but will be checking this week on all payments, seeing what has come in so far. Adding it will be down anyway, since last year's senior class was so large.

There is a \$600 fee for pay to play this year and it's been a very crazy last 10 days.

There is also a payment plan available for those who need it.

Ms. Hansel said her first conference call this morning was with the Community Foundation, asking about funding options for smaller teams and their transportation. If they approve a grant for this, it could open the flood gates.

Ms. Hansel added the President's office reached out to her about a big focus in Ohio in the stem areas, such as science curriculum and reading. They are going to partner with sports marketing at Miami and going to promote at Talawanda.

Currently trying to bring in a sponsor, and this money will go toward funding outreach for literacy stem science and reading.

3. Miami University Report

Mr. Beissel advised classes start in less than 2 weeks. Miami has five home football games planned, but university wise, budget not in great shape.

Mr. Wooddell asked how is the freshman class size this year. Mr. Beissel stated it's still low but not as low as covid years. Mr. Bogard asked if there was growth on the regional campuses. Mr. Beissel said regionals seem to be fine, focus is on the main campus.

The Provost went with an online graduate school option for a while, but now it's going back to an in-person graduate learning experience.

Old Business

1. Recruiting a New Board Member

Recruiting a new board member - Mr. Wooddell stated Jacob Young is visiting as an interested potential Recreation Board member.

Ms. French said odds are good Mr. Young will be appointed as the next Rec Board member.

2. Farewell - Ken Bogard

The Recreation Board gave Mr. Bogard a card and honored him with a brick to be placed at the Oxford Aquatic Center entrance thanking Mr. Ken Bogard for his years of dedication and service to the Oxford Community.

New Business

1. Discussion - Merry Day Park

Mr. Wooddell stated there has been discussion regarding Merry Day Park - and the possibility of an affordable housing project. The property could be rezoned to R3, which would allow an apartment complex to be built there. Mr. Wooddell noted, however, Planning Commission voted it down, but City Council will vote tomorrow evening.

Mr. Young said one alternative could be Jason Bracken and his involvement with TOPSS and

getting them there instead.

Mr. Wooddell said health and wellness go hand in hand. Ms. French said many things are clashing together, because we want TOPSS to have more space and to have more room. Mr. Wooddell said it is the only green space in the northwest quadrant of the community that is open to the public. However, it does still keep a good amount of green space if they move forward with affordable housing.

Our goal is to upgrade the park regardless of the housing project.

2. Discussion - Partnership with Enjoy Oxford for Creative Placemaking

Ms. French stated she is working with Adam Beissel, Chelsea and Seth Copenbaker on doing a half marathon return to Oxford. This connects really well to Cincinnati's flying pig marathon and would be a good starting place. Currently looking into a course through S.L.A.M. to look at logistics and cost and also talking to some registration websites. Really trying to do this during the eclipse weekend, with Sunday morning being the day for the run. Ms. French also spoke to the gentleman that ran the Red Brick Run for ideas.

The weekend event will be called Total eclipse of the parks. We will look at asking for matching funding from Enjoy Oxford. Ms. French is asking the Recreation Board for approval to ask for this inquiry.

Mr. Wooddell asked, is there a number you want the Recreation Board to advocate for?

Ms. French said \$10,000 - \$20,000

Ms. Hansel asked how many people you think this will bring to town?

Mr. Beissel said he would try to recruit from in town, out of town, and an army of 60 or so students to assist with staffing the event.

Ms. Hansel asked about also inquiring with the chamber of commerce.

Mr. Wooddell asked if it made sense to place it on the agenda again in September.

All agreed to re-visit in September.

Adjournment

Adjourn

Motion - To Adjourn @ 12:50pm

(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Hansel 2nd Ms. French

AYE # 5

NAY # 0

ABS # 0