



MINUTES
OXFORD RECREATION BOARD
OXFORD MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023 AT 11:30 AM

Call to Order

The Oxford Parks and Recreation Board meeting was called to order by Casey Wooddell on Monday, December 11, 2023 at 11:38am.

Roll Call

Recreation Board members in attendance: Craig Bennett; Adam Beissel, Jake Richardson, Jacob Young, Alex French

Absent: Holli Hansel

Staff members in attendance: Casey Wooddell and Deanna Barbour

Approval of Agenda

1. Approval of the Agenda for the 12/11/2023 Oxford Recreation Board meeting.

Motion to Approve:

(Voice Vote) 1st - Jacob Young 2nd - Craig Bennett

AYE # - 3

NAY # - 0

ABS # - 0

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of Minutes from the 11/13/2023 Oxford Recreation Board meeting.

approval of minutes moved to next meeting

Reports

1. Parks and Recreation Report

Mr. Wooddell advised that the ADA playground at the Oxford Community Park is 100% complete. The ADA whirl is fixed and the contract officially done. Adding some of the feedback received along the way had concerns about the shaded area that used to cover the picnic tables that is now covering the ADA Whirl. Mr. Wooddell stated he was happy to announce there is \$15,000 in CDBG funds to recreate a shaded area with new picnic tables.

Mr. Wooddell stated we've been given a \$19,000 private donation from someone local. The donor picked Parks and Recreation this year and with those funds we are looking at adding a shaded/shelter indoor/outdoor space outside the current camp room at the Aquatic Center. This will help expand the summer camp room and give more space to our growing camp program. We are also looking for a local service club that may be interested in matching that number.

Mr. Wooddell noted Merry Day Park project has about \$97,000 CDBG money to replace the playground next year. Asking would we want to move the playground from where it is now to a better location on the property. Mr. Young asked is there a restroom there? Mr. Wooddell added it's currently a port-o-let.

Mr. Bennett asked where is the trail on the map? Mr. Woodell stated that piece is not designed yet, however, it may go farther north and not even come across Merry Day as originally discussed. Mr. Wooddell added one of the concerns was access to the new pool from Merry Day Park, which is why they were looking for the trail to come through there. Mr. Wooddell added right now, the plan is to go farther north and route back down.

Mr. Wooddell stated an upcoming 2024 project is a new dog park to be built. Mr. Wooddell distributed a possible map option noting the budget is around \$90,000 and would begin in the fall of 2024 to work on that.

Mr. Wooddell reminded the Recreation Board of their previous recommendation for a new Parks & Recreation Master Plan. Mr. Wooddell noted it's not a separate Parks and Recreation plan, it's currently apart of the comprehensive plan for the city. Mr. Beissel asked when does the public become aware of the new dog park? Mr. Wooddell stated when we feel good about what it's going to look like and have plans in place, then we can get the word out.

City Council updates from Councilor French

Ms. French said the City signed an MOU to help with the eclipse event in the spring. The main event will be on Saturday, and watch parties on Monday. Estimates range from 10,000-30,000 people coming to town. Ms. French stated we are in the path of totality, meaning total darkness in Oxford. Sunday, April 7th will showcase the space race, a 5k and 10K and will start and finish at Leonard Howell. There will be up to 500 runners participating. Mr. Wooddell added Ms. Chelsea Meyers, from Miami University SLAM department, has a class volunteering for this event.

Ms. French advised the next phase of Oxford Area Trails will be to move the path on Gardenia Drive to behind the current residents homes at least 30 ft as requested.

Ms. French offered appreciation and said the Oxford Holiday Festival was great and all of council enjoyed the event.

2. Talawanda Report

Mr. Richardson stated all winter sports have started and are in full swing.

Basketball - the senior class is really small this year, and the freshman class is even smaller. Smaller classes mean less participation. Last year there were a lot more seniors participating and currently the middle school classes are running average numbers.

Mr. Richardson noted he is currently trying to get new coaches in and find new coaches for sports.

3. Miami University Report

Mr. Beissel advised the biggest conversation is the next strategic plan launch. Miami paid for an audit report to form the strategic plan to get out of the budgetary crisis they are in. This plan will really shift what the university has normally focused on.

Mr. Bennett stated he knows they are running very lean, and they are not coming up with many areas to shave off. Mr. Beissel noted majors with less than 30 students are being looked at as areas to shave off.

Mr. Beissel asked maybe a subcommittee would look at the relationship between Oxford and the University.

Mr. Wooddell said the City is working with Miami to possibly contribute to some of the costs for Fire Department runs to the campus. The Fire Department is running at a deficit right now.

Old Business

none at this time

New Business

1. Joint Meeting 2024

Mr. Wooddell advised the next Recreation Board meeting would be the joint TRI/Recreation Board meeting to discuss TRI's future and their discussions with Level MB.

Joint Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 31st, from 11:00am - 1:00pm at LaRosa's.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn - Mr. Wooddell at 12:19pm
(Voice Vote) 1st Mr. Young 2nd Mr. Richardson
AYE # 5
NAY # 0
ABS # 0