



MINUTES OXFORD RECREATION BOARD

Municipal Building 15 South College Ave. Oxford, Ohio 45056 Second Floor Conference Room

MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024 AT 11:30 AM

Call to Order

The Oxford Recreation Board was called to order by Jacob Young on May 13, 2024 at 11:32am.

Roll Call

Members in attendance were: Jacob Young, Chair, Adam Beissel; Craig Bennett; Alex French and

Holly Hansel

Absent: Jake Richardson

Staff members in attendance were: Casey Wooddell and Deanna Barbour

Approval of Agenda

1. Approval of the Oxford Recreation Board meeting agenda for May 13, 2024.

Motion - to Approve

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

AYE # 5

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the minutes from the March 11, 2024 Oxford Recreation Board meeting.

Motion - To Approve

(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Hansel 2nd Mr. Bennett

AYE # 5

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Reports

1. Parks and Recreation Report

Mr. Wooddell said Epic Cup had the best weekend they'd had in a long time with perfect weather. The boys' weekend had over 120 teams, a little more than the girls' weekend. When the weather is that good, a lot more people attend. It was all around a very successful event, with over 300 teams enjoying the park over both weekends.

Mr. Wooddell stated the Aquatic Center was coming along. We are open 2 weeks from today. We currently have the pool filling, and the activity pool will be ready by next week. So far there are no hurdles.

Mr. Wooddell noted applications have been flowing in for lifeguards, and we are approaching around 40 lifeguards for hire. We always have too many in the beginning, but this is a great start.

Mr. Bennett asked, "Are you happy you didn't outsource a couple of years ago?" Mr. Wooddell said yes, so glad we did not outsource. It has its challenges, but it has definitely been worth it.

Mr. Wooddell added that the summer camp and concession staff look good also, with a lot of returning staff at the supervisor level.

Mr. Wooddell noted we purchased a new canopy for shade at OCP since the old canopy is now used to cover the ADA Whirl. The new one has arrived but still needs to be installed. Due to the possible difficult installation, we will probably outsource it since it has a lot of concrete work and 20ft poles.

Mr. Wooddell advised the Bash n Splash baseball tournament has been canceled due to low enrollment. There's a lot of competition out there running tournaments that don't charge a fee, they only charge admittance to all that come in to play and watch. Also, other fields offer turf, and we are on grass, which can limit and/or cancel play if we have a lot of rain. Whereas the turf is still a playable option. At this time, we don't have enough to run the tournament and will refund those registrants.

Mr. Bennett motioned for Mr. Wooddell to travel and attend ball tournaments around the area to see what options they are offering to improve our tournament options and make sure they run in the future.

2. Talawanda Report

Ms. Hansel advised Talawanda spring sports have gone pretty well. Varsity baseball won their league. The last she heard they are trying to keep connected and friendly with some of the local school districts. The travel factor is a factor for them since they don't have athletic busing currently and there's no talk about it being reinstated next year. Ms. Hansel thinks that it's really important to be in a good league for the competition factor for our kids in the future.

Ms. Hansel and Mr. Young discussed the same complaint from residents in regard to traveling to Dayton to play games, and it's been this way for years.

Mr. Beissel said they could look at sections and do a north and south option with one crossover. That may help with a reduction in far travel for most players.

Ms. Hansel noted another big issue with parents is the busing options. Data from the survey they sent out showed 60% of parents responded who, out of 1880 sent, wanted to keep the current plan. The employees in the district, 78% wanted to keep the current plan in place and the busing to stay the same as before. The 2nd option was to go back to the plan from a couple of years ago and the 3rd option was to go back to early elementary pick up.

Mr. Young asked if there is an increase in pay for playing this year. Ms. Hansel said she had not heard of an increase and was not expecting that to go up for next year. Mr. Wooddell said he would ask

Mr. Richardson. Mr. Beissel added that the middle school is at \$150.

3. Miami University Report

Mr. Wooddell asked is there any news on the Geo Thermal project at Millett Hall. Mr. Beissel noted the next major infrastructure project renovation will happen to Bachlor Hall.

Mr. Beissel stated he is chairing the Experiential Learning Program and he attended the MAC Academic Leadership Development Program and there he learned of the Carnegie Foundation of Community Engagement. He hopes that what comes out of this is how the university can communicate better with the community and the city.

Old Business

1. Merry Day Park Playground Project

Mr. Wooddell distributed 3 renderings of the color options/schemes for the Merry Day Park play structure, adding PES - playground equipment services will be the provider.

Mr. Young said PES offered the most for kids that can't or don't climb, and just more options for kids to do in general.

Mr. Wooddell noted they were going with the purple teal, lime color option.

Mr. Young asked when the funding would be coming in? Mr. Wooddell advised most want 50%

Mr. Young stated September - October is good for installation.

2. 2025 Goals and Objectives

Mr. Wooddell advised City Council has given goals/options for each department in the City for 2025 and OPRD's goals/options they would like to see are:

1. Multigenerational child care and/or head start

Mr. Wooddell noted this is something we've discussed in house previously. The feasibility of that and the fact we are state licensed and all the requirements needed does not fall in line with what the Senior Center could do to offer a child care option. We have looked into doing things, maybe a program that would include the seniors and having activity time with them together.

2. Head start - Mr. Wooddell noted he had a discussion with Butler County Head Start, asking if there is a need for another program. However, as a Parks and Recreation, we cannot run the program, since it's a county-run program.

Mr. Wooddell stated our answer from Head Start said there is a need, but they don't have the place or opportunity in their current building. In the future when there is a new building and or renovation, there could be a possibility to have a preschool and a Head Start option.

Mr. Beissel asked if the dog park is that still on the agenda. Mr. Wooddell stated yes.

New Business

1. New Board Members

Mr. Wooddell advised the Recreation Board is going to have a board change come fall. Ms. Hansel has termed out and Jason Merz is stepping in for that spot. Mr. Bennett has termed out and we are still looking for someone to fill that spot.

Mr. Beissel mentioned Callie, Mike Arnos, and or Bill. Mr. Wooddell will reach out to Mike and Bill.

Mr. Wooddell noted Mr. Richardson was never officially signed in by Council, he was filling in for Wes Cole to finish his term. Mr. Richardson will become official after

2. Summer Meetings

Mr. Wooddell advised there will be no summer meetings for June and July.

Ms. French noted she'll be getting the name ready for the fall cemetery tours.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn - Mr. Bennett @ 12:35pm
(Voice Vote) 1st Mr. Beissel - 2nd Ms. Hansel
AYE # 5
NAY # 0
ABS # 0