



MINUTES
OXFORD RECREATION BOARD
OXFORD MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2024 AT 11:30 AM

Call to Order

1. Welcome New Members

The Oxford Parks and Recreation Board meeting was called to order by Casey Wooddell at 11:30am on Monday, September 12, 2024. Members in attendance were: Adam Beissel; Alex French; Jason Merz; Sarah Meaney and Jake Richardson

Absent: Jacob Young

Staff members in attendance were: Casey Wooddell and Deanna Barbour

Welcome new Recreation Board members Sarah Meaney, Miami University, and Jason Merz, Talawanda City Schools.

Mr. Merz noted he's currently the Principal at Kramer Elementary school and has been with Kramer for the last 16 years. He lives in the township and is actively involved with his boys in the community.

Ms. Meaney stated she works for Resident Life at Miami. She's been in Oxford for the last 10 years, she has 2 girls, one at Kramer and one starting middle school this year. She is originally from Illinois and went back there during the pandemic, however, really missed Oxford and the community when they were away and promptly moved back.

Mr. Beissel is in his 8th year at Miami. He has twin daughters in 7th grade, active in youth sports.

Ms. French - City council rep, lived in Oxford since 2006; 2021 elected onto council and then joined rec board. She stated she loves Oxford and is very active on council, started the cemetery tours in October and Space race in April.

Approval of Agenda

1. Approval of the agenda for the August 12, 2024 Oxford Recreation Board meeting.

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Motion - To Approve

(Voice Vote) 1st Adam beissel 2nd Alex french

AYE # 4

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the minutes from the May 13, 2024 Oxford Recreation Board meeting.

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Motion - To Approve

(Voice Vote) 1st Alex french 2nd Adam beissel

AYE # 4

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Reports

1. Parks and Recreation Report

Mr. Wooddell advised the final day of the Aquatic Center being open during the week was yesterday. The Aquatic Center is open weekends only from here until Labor Day, September 2nd. We will host the Doggie Dip again this year and it will be last event of the year at the Aquatic Center. Due to the large participation last year, we have required all participants to register online this year placing a cap at 75 dogs this year.

Mr. Wooddell stated last Friday, August 9, was also the last day of summer camp POP! and Little Poppers. Adding we also had the back to school bash yesterday at the Aquatic Center with Kiwanis. Kiwanis took on this event as their flagship program, and they continue to come back and offer a great time for the kids getting ready for back to school. The event offered inflatables; games, free pool entry; free hair cuts; a lot of free hand outs to the students as they prepare for back to school. It was really big turnout yesterday, adding he does not have an exact count from Kiwanis yet, but talk was they were somewhere around 700 visitors.

Mr. Wooddell said there are some discussions going on about the TRI, and to give a little background here is the connection between the TRI and the City Parks and Recreation. The TRI began in the late 60's, when some community members came together and donated land for youth recreation. They banded together and had a few fundraisers that eventually built the current TRI center complex. Originally there was one part time Parks and Recreation Director with a lot of volunteers. Through years of change and the dwindling of volunteers, the city stepped in and hired the first full time Parks and Recreation Director and we've been growing ever since. The

city currently leases the building from the TRI Board, (which now consists of nine members and two city staff, Casey Wooddell and Deanna Barbour) The TRI is a non-profit organization that is completely separate and independent of the city. Recently there was a lot of noise regarding the skatepark and it's need of repairs. All skate park repairs come from the TRI and they pay for the repairs. The skatepark is over 20 years old. It was built in the early 2000's, when some skateboarders in the area came together and had requested to have a public meeting to raise funds for a the skate park. With donations the TRI and the City built the current skate park. Those prices have escalated and now costs are up to \$300,000 to replace the existing park. Regardless of what they do with the location, it will all have to be torn out and the base/foundation rebuilt. We have to make an investment at some point and make the decision on what to do in that area. The pickleball courts are in the same sort of boat, with a lot of repair needed on the court. Ms. French asked is it in the capital improvement budget? Mr. Wooddell said yes, the skatepark is in there, but not the pickleball courts. We can rebuild ramps and do as much as we can do for now. Ms. French asked are there grants available? Mr. Wooddell said Tony Hawk has a \$25,000 grant available to apply for, but that's not going to do much for what we need. Ms. Meaney asked is there a place to apply to, maybe through the seniors or youth, adding there's Miami students playing pickleball as well, so the need is definitely there. Which is great, we just don't have enough space. Mr. Wooddell said he's sure we could get smaller grants, but we still need a huge chunk of money for the bigger picture. The city thought of using CDBG funds, so it's something to keep looking at and see what the requests look like from the CIP. Mr. Richardson said ideally you would tear everything out and start fresh. Mr. Wooddell added one option would be to tear out and rebuild pickleball at a new location and build a pump track where the pickleball courts are so it will tie into the skate park, that's potentially what we'd want to do.

Mr. Wooddell advised the TRI - TRI Board Members are slowly working on how to get a new indoor community center that we have access too when needed. We all feel there is not enough indoor court space in the City available to as many sports as need space. The TRI Board received a cost estimate on building a new structure adjacent to the current structure and also renovation on current facility. This new building would include 3 basketball courts, that also subs as indoor pickleball courts and volleyball courts; batting cages on the mezzanine level as well as bathrooms, concession stand; office space and a community room.

2. Miami University Report

Ms. Meaney said it's go time! Mr. Beissel added student move in starts next week. Ms. Meaney added move in changed to Thursday, next week and first year's move in next Friday.

Mr. Beissel added Miami is currently at a cross roads. Their strategic plans are in phases and once the phases are done in the next year, then implementation will begin. The President is very specific on outcomes wanted.

Ms. French stated there has been a crisis on funding the fire department. Miami was number one and Knolls of Oxford was next. Miami and the city reached an agreement to fund half the deficit. If you receive questions about the levy, this is not just for Miami, this will get us an active functioning fire department. The agreement is in place and signed.

3. Talawanda Report

Mr. Richardson - things are getting ready for the fall and it's a very busy time. Trying to get all students set up in the system, and we have 57 new high school students this year. Already started scrimmages for fall sports. Adding fall sports we have a new soccer coach, new girls golf coach, football coaches are all the same. We are moving to the Southwestern Buckeye League. Edgewood and Ross left and that left Talawanda and Harrison. Harrison is too big to move to the SWBL.

Old Business

1. Merry Day Park Playground Project

Mr. Wooddell advised we have been working on the Merry Day Park Playground Project. A new playground has been ordered and hopefully installed by September 2024 - October 2024. The old structure will be removed and replaced into another section of the park. This will be a nice upgrade and update to the park that has been needed for a while.

2. New Dog Park Project

Mr. Wooddell stated we are currently bidding out the new dog park project. Our current dog park is over used, muddy and in constant use. An additional location is needed and Friday is the last day to take in bids. This should include fencing, benches, and whatever can fit within the budget. The new dog park will be located across the road from the playground, at Leonard Howell where the parking lot currently is.

Ms. French said Three Valley Conservation inquired about parking and incorporating that in with the dog park. Mr. Wooddell said he will ask Mike Drieisbach, who is in charge of that portion of the project. Mr. Wooddell doesn't think we want that area paved all the way back, so as not to entice people to drive back there.

3. Aquatic Center Shelter Project

Mr. Wooddell said the last project we discussed was adding a shelter onto the side of aquatic center. However, what we thought would be a \$30-\$40 thousand dollar project turned out to be a \$75,000 dollar project. Instead we are pivoting these funds back to the playground area at OCP to be used to add an additional shade structure. The previous shade structure was taken over by the new ADA Whirl leaving no where for seating with shade.

New Business

Mr. Wooddell stated we are required to turn in a five year CIP plan and city council is voting to take a look at the next 5 years. Mr. Wooddell added Parks and Rec would like to replace the 2004 Ford Ranger with a new van, giving us an additional vehicle which would allow us to increase program capacity. Also asking for \$25,000 for facility maintenance, fencing, field upgrades and laser grading. Same for pool, pumps, paint etc. We are also requesting to replace the playground at the existing dog park and \$25,000 to rebuild the shelter at Leonard Howell park and relocate the shelter nearer to the parking lot for easier access and be ADA accessible. We've had a lot of requests for restroom facilities and shelters.

There is not a current update for a parks and recreation master plan to be separate, our current plan was from 1997, and we are currently a part of the city's comp plan. Mr. Wooddell stated we feel really behind, and we understand it's a really expensive plan costing over \$100,000, but also know how beneficial the old plan was for the growth of the Parks and Recreation department and what the possibilities could be with a new plan. Ms. French said this plan would also be very helpful for the trail as well. Mr. Wooddell stated such as little pocket parks along the trail. Mr. Beissel asked is there no way to add a portion to the current plan, strategically add the plan in some way, when discussing the trail. Adding Oxford Tomorrow - did a vague plan - in which they asked and stated that a new master plan for P&R was needed. Mr. Wooddell said the previous plan forecasted the need for the uptown parks, the community park, etc. and we are in need of that type of direction.

Mr. Wooddell advised this board did put in an official request for a master plan and turned into city council but it's in the pile of all the requests from all the other departments. Ms. French asked if the current people working on the city's plan could also do the parks and rec separately. Mr. Wooddell said it was brought up to use the Miami graduate students to create a master plan, but we don't want it to be a plan we don't use or is helpful to us to move forward.

Ms. French added we need more fountains for people to get water. Mr. Wooddell asked are there locations where water could be place for easy access? Ms. French noted it would be nice to have one near the horse barns, peffer park, at the black covered bridge area, etc.

Ms. French added updated news - we are round 2 for the cemetery tours. They will be held the last 3 Saturdays in October - 12, 19 and 26. All will be held starting at 11am. This years tours might focus on Miami athletes, women of oxford, miamians etc. then maybe next year look at doing one at 6pm.

Ms. French added she would like to do another race like the space race this year, and would like a new theme.

Mr. Wooddell noted he's partnering with a class with Miami and they are looking at creating new spring event, relating to honey bees. Ms. French stated there will be a painting on the side wall area near Mac and Joes depicting a honey comb, like a bee hive. Mr. Beissel said Cincinnati has a queen bee race so if we could have a trainer race for that, maybe call it the bumble bee race or something. Mr. Wooddell said there is an appetite from the city building for a spring event as well, around April. Mr. Richardson added it could be the Spring Bee 5k.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn - Mr. Wooddell @ 12:36pm
(Voice Vote) 1st Mr. Richardson - 2nd Mr. Merz
AYE # 5
NAY # 0
ABS # 0