



MINUTES
OXFORD RECREATION BOARD
OXFORD MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2024 AT 11:30 AM

Call to Order

The Oxford Recreation Board was called to order by Mr. Wooddell on September 9, 2024 at 11:33am.

Roll Call

Members in attendance were: Adam Beissel; Sarah Meaney; Jason Merz and Jacob Young.

Absent: Alex French and Jake Richardson

Staff members in attendance were: Casey Wooddell

Approval of Agenda

1. Approval of the Agenda for the September 9, 2024 Oxford Recreation Board meeting.

Motion to Approve

(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Meaney 2nd Mr. Merz

AYE # 4

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from the August 12, 2024 Oxford Recreation Board meeting.

Motion - to Approve

(Voice Vote) 1st Mr. Young 2nd Mr. Beissel

AYE # 4

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Recreation Reports

1. Oxford Parks and Recreation Dept.

Mr. Wooddell provided information about the Parks and Recreation Department. He stated the aquatic center is closed for the season. Labor Day weekend was a big weekend again this year for college students visiting the aquatic center. The season then ended with the Doggie Dip event being on Monday; there were a total of 85 dogs registered this year.

Mr. Wooddell stated he would provide the board with some statistical data on the pool season at the next meeting in October. Ms. Meaney asked if the aquatic center has been able to cover its operational costs each year. Mr. Wooddell replied that the facility typically covers its annual cost of operations, but does not make enough revenue to cover the cost of the debt service to build the facility.

Mr. Wooddell noted fall sports are in full swing, with flag football having another record year for participation with over 160 players. He mentioned that flag football is growing in a lot of areas and the NFL Flag football league does a great job of providing shirts and flags to every player. One issue OPRD is working through is the need for additional field space with lights to run flag football games in the evenings. More players create the need for more field space. Mr. Wooddell shared some costs with the board several months ago on new lights for a section of the community park, and it was nearly \$300,000.

Mr. Young asked if the current lights on the TRI field have a lifespan for when they'll no longer be able to be used.

Mr. Wooddell said there is no definitive life span for those lights, but that they are very old and probably not worth repairing.

Mr. Beissel noted this is where having a Parks and Recreation Master Plan would be very helpful for long-term planning for facility needs. Mr. Young agreed, also noting the need for pickleball courts and how new courts fit in with a new skatepark facility. Mr. Young mentioned he was contacted by some local citizens about how the TRI pickleball courts are the only publicly accessible pickleball courts in the community, and there are not enough of them to serve the users. Even Miami students come to the TRI on a daily basis to use the courts.

A local guest, Brian Revere, joined the meeting during this discussion.

Mr. Merz asked if there was any consideration for using the strip of grass between the fences on the TRI baseball field for pickleball courts. Mr. Wooddell noted they have had that discussion. Building new pickleball courts isn't as much of a location issue as it is a funding issue. The TRI nor the City have the funds to build those at this time. Mr. Beissel again noted a long-term Master Plan would aid in better understanding the best location for future facilities as well as potentially how to fund them. It would also help in potentially planning for more revitalization and development of Leonard Howell Park.

Ms. Meaney asked if there might be an appetite for a fundraising campaign to build new pickleball courts. Waiting until the TRI builds a new building and raises funds for that project might take too long, and people will want new courts much sooner than that. Mr. Young asked if OPRD would maintain new courts should they be built on TRI property. Mr. Wooddell stated that OPRD staff would oversee and supervise the courts, but the TRI would be responsible for the cost of the maintenance.

Mr. Revere mentioned a fundraising campaign could include using local artists to create and sell artwork as part of a silent auction or raffle, and benefit both the artist and the City. Mr. Young stated the mural of the honeycomb uptown really got people excited about public art and got a lot of local involvement. Ms. Meaney mentioned a pickleball tournament that occurred over a weekend organized by the Miami Activities and Programming (MAP) organization, and how pickleball tournaments could also be used to raise funds.

Mr. Wooddell stated that fundraising for new facilities is a great idea, but we need to be aware of how much time and work would be required to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars in funding. Tournaments and silent auctions would only contribute a very small percentage of the needs for such an expensive facility.

Mr. Wooddell mentioned the Oxford Cemetery Tours are set for 2024. They will be held October 12, 19 and 26th at 11am. Ms. Meaney noted she attended last year and had a positive experience. Those tours will be very similar this year, with some different highlights on the people being discussed along the tour.

Mr. Beissel asked if it was fair to say that recreation facility projects could depend upon the passage of the fire levy?

Mr. Wooddell stated that's not an answer he could provide, but that the city would likely be looking at ways to cut expenses should the levy not pass.

2. Talawanda School District

Mr. Merz provided information about the Talawanda Athletics. He stated the meet the team night for fall sports was very well attended. He stated football season is three weeks complete, with seven weeks remaining. He also mentioned the soccer teams are performing very well, along with the Cross Country team. Cross Country hosts one home meet this year on October 5th.

Mr. Wooddell asked if the Cross Country team might use the OATS trail once it's connected to the middle school. Mr. Merz stated cross country has to be ran on grass so they wouldn't use that as their track. Mr. Beissel stated they may use it for training though.

3. Miami University

Mr. Beissel provided information about Miami Athletics. He noted the Miami vs UC game is this weekend; we should expect a very large crowd and parking will be needed in extra areas, such as Leonard Howell Park and Bonham Road Park. Mr. Merz stated they are using Kramer to park extra busses and tractor trailers. Mr. Wooddell noted OPRD is again partnering with Miami to trade usage of facilities. Miami will park cars on city property for this event and OPRD will be allowed to use the indoor football field at Miami for some flag football games.

Old Business

1. Shelter Project - Oxford Community Park

New Business

1. Oxford Dog Park Project

DOG PARK NAME:

Mr. Wooddell noted with the impending construction of the new dog park facility, the City Manager has asked the Recreation Board to recommend a name to City Council for approval. After much discussion about the local history of Oxford, location of the dog park, names of other dog parks in the area, whom the dog park could potentially serve and other factors, the Recreation Board voted 4-0 to recommend two names to City Council, and to allow City Council to select the name.

Ms. Meaney made the motion to recommend the following names to City Council: Bonham Bark Park and Barkham Park.

Motion - to Approve

(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Meaney 2nd Mr. Young

AYE # 4

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

SAVE THE DATE, OATS TRAIL MEETING;

Mr. Wooddell asked the Recreation Board members to save the date of an upcoming meeting regarding Phase VI of the Oxford Area Trail system. It will be held on October 10th at Talawanda Middle School at 6pm. Mr. Beissel asked if there is any new information to consider on this phase of the trail? Mr. Wooddell said the city intends to use GIS mapping on this section to 'tell the story' of the potential new trail, and there may also be new information about trail locations along this segment.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn - Mr. Wooddell asked for a motion to adjourn at 12:34pm

(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Meaney - 2nd Mr. Beissel

AYE # 4

NAY # 0

ABS # 0