



**MINUTES
OXFORD RECREATION BOARD
OXFORD MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2024 AT 11:30 AM**

Call to Order

The Oxford Recreation Board was called to order by Mr. Young on November 18, 2024 at 11:30am.

Roll Call

Members in attendance were: Adam Beissel; Alex French; Sarah Meaney; Jason Merz; Jake Richardson; Jacob Young
Staff Members in attendance were: Casey Wooddell and Deanna Barbour
Guest visitor: Brian Revere

Approval of Agenda

1. Approval of the Recreation Board Agenda for the 11/18/2024 meeting.
1. Approval of the Agenda for the November 18, 2024 Oxford Recreation Board Meeting.
Motion to Approve
(Voice Vote) 1st Mr. Biessel 2nd Ms. Meaney
AYE # 6
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the minutes from the 9.9.2024 Recreation Board meeting.
1. Approval of minutes from the September 9, 2024 Oxford Recreation Board Meeting.
Motion - to Approve
(Voice Vote) 1st Mr. Young 2nd Mr. Beissel
AYE# 6
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Reports

1. Parks and Recreation Report

Dog Park -

Mr. Wooddell noted the feedback about the fencing was pretty positive and he was happy with the company that's doing the fencing. They are about 90% done. Since it is such a big area they are making sure all the little crevices are taken care of so small dogs cannot get through. The benches still need to be installed and grass is coming up. It's also good to know that a lot of the internal work from the city, such as water lines, etc, are complete as well.

Mr. Young asked are we looking at a spring opening? Mr. Wooddell noted we'll open as soon as possible, once grass is established and benches are installed.

Mr. Wooddell stated there are nineteen official parking spaces at the new dog park with two dedicated handicap parking spaces for the boardwalk. In the future we may need a parking lot expansion to accommodate the usage.

Ms. Meaney asked would there be a boardwalk foot bridge in the future? Mr. Wooddell said no, because a foot bridge, which seems small runs around a million dollars to build.

Mr. Beissel asked if we see more people using the trail head, would we see something like a kiosk and or signage listing the rules of the trail, such as on leash with dog etc. Mr. Wooddell stated yes, this is likely, especially with 5K events becoming more popular at this trailhead location.

Merry Day Park

Mr. Wooddell stated Merry Day park playground had received a lot of positive feedback and good reviews. It is a very nice change to what has been available in that park.

Oxford Community Park

Mr. Wooddell advised we are currently working to have the canopy replaced at the large playground at OCP. Looks like installation will happen end of 2024 or by spring 2025.

Oxford Aquatic Center

Mr. Wooddell noted all pipes at OCP concession and aquatic center have been winterized. The aquatic center activity pool filtration system sand has been switched out for glass. The glass are like little fine smooth balls and their life span is much longer than sand.

Aquatic/Program Supervisor

Mr. Wooddell advised OPRD has a position that has come open in the parks and recreation for the Aquatic/Program Supervisor. Emily Sollenberger held this position for the last year and a half and has chosen to be a stay at home mom. So we are in the process of interviews. Mr. Revere asked what are the qualifications for that position? Mr. Wooddell gave a break down of job requirements. Mr. Wooddell noted this is the first time we've had multiple internal candidates vying for the same position.

Special Events

Mr. Wooddell stated Veterans Day was last week. The event was very well attended and we had perfect weather. Mr. Wooddell added during the playing of taps there was a bald eagle circling

above the park right above us, that was very cool. Mr. Wooddell said there were a lot of partnerships and departments involved for this event, including service, preschool, Rotary; Miami University ROTC and the Talawanda Choir. It was a wonderful community event.

Holiday Festival

Mr. Wooddell advised Oxford's Holiday Fest will be held on December 7, from 4:30 - 8:30. There will be lots of activities, including carriage rides; mechanical reindeer; visits with Santa; enjoying a strolling magician; Kids Korner Krafts for the kids to make; hot chocolate; a donut food truck, the Oxford Community Band and this year we're going with a live band for the last half of the event. It will be fun for all.

Uptown Igloos

Mr. Wooddell said the igloos will be put up by the end of November, early December. Once the date is picked he will send out an email.

TRI Board

Mr. Wooddell advised the TRI Board plans to continue pushing for an indoor community center. They had a meeting with several TRI Health executives to inform them of the project and one of the TRI Health execs visited the TRI/OPRD last week. TRI Health told the TRI board they need to make a proposal for TRI Health and list what is needed and what they are looking at for this project. The TRI Board is working on that proposal. The Board also has someone that is working on their advertising side and it's moving slowly but it's moving in the right direction.

2. Talawanda Schools Report

Mr. Richardson gave the Talawanda report. Currently trying to wrap up fall sports, the banquet is going on now. Boys and girls cross country did very well. The girls won regional which was huge! That has never been done before and they finished fourth in the state, adding they did a tremendous job. Mr. Young noted they also received several scholarships. Mr. Richardson stated six were signed, all other states.

Mr. Richardson said he's getting ready for winter sports, and Brave madness on Friday night. We start next Wednesday with boys and girls double header in Monroe.

Bowling League

Mr. Richardson noted they did not have enough student athletes for bowling this year or enough to even do co-ed. He did get a few signed up to do some bowling activities on their own, just not enough for a league.

Mr. Richardson stated he's really seeing decreases across the board in sports. They're down with numbers for girls basketball. Mr. Beissel said the middle school was down as well. Mr. Richardson added so is JV girls soccer, they had varsity players play down just so they could have a team. Mr. Richardson noted we have a smaller percentage of kids playing across the board, so we're learning different ways to manage that. Technology is taking the place for a lot of kids

on how they meet each other. More kids have connections through those options and they've chosen that route instead of playing sports. It's too hard and too much work, kids give up and they don't try to fight their way up anymore. Mr. Wooddell asked have we seen kids transferring to other schools because Talawanda sports are down? Mr. Richardson said they've seen a couple go to Harrison and or Badin.

Mr. Revere inquired about summer travel leagues and asked are they looked upon by the coaches as they will be their starters in the fall? Mr. Richardson said we'll have kids that go off to play other things in the summer but are great players coming back in the fall and then the kids that play all summer feel they should automatically get a certain spot, so there is a battle at times in the fall.

Ms. Meaney added what she's seeing with Rochell Dunwoody at Miami is more focus on just wanting to instill the love of the game. It's cultivated as a good feel for the sport, while also being affordable. It's a good opportunity and way less intense than club.

Mr. Revere noted he played sports and started at a pee wee level, the draw for him was the sense of competition. He also sees with video games today there is still a sense of competition. He added a lot of kids don't see the meaning behind the sports, they see it as just a way to pass the time. Mr. Richardson said that's why he loves sports, it's those foundational concepts and also normalizing feelings about competition. Letting kids know their feelings are normal and it's ok to feel the way they're feeling and go through those situations.

3. Miami University Report

Mr. Beissel gave the Miami Report. Mr. Beissel stated the Basketball arena Miami University will be building with 1/3 privately funded has not decided yet on a location. Miami definitely needs another facility, the current one is over 50 years old and cost to update is just too much. Millett needs 68 million just to upgrade and maintenance and right now, what happens to Millett is up in the air. Ms. French added she learned if a historical building is knocked down as long as federal funds are not used HAPC is not involved.

Mr. Beissel stated even if the basketball team was a perennial power, there is a need for better auditorium, and he thinks it will be more than just a basketball arena. Locations considered is slant walk, cook field or phillips hall area. This will require about 50-60 million dollars from the university.

Old Business

New Business

Mr. Wooddell said this is the section to discuss new business and asked Mr. Revere what he wanted to share with the Recreation Board. Mr. Revere said what he wanted to bring to the

Boards attention is that he moved to the Oxford area a couple of years ago and noticed there wasn't a big celebration in 2023 and 2024 for Juneteenth. Mr. Revere stated he would like to bring to a future meeting a concept/proposal concerning a Juneteenth celebration. He noticed there was a multi-cultural event that happened but it wasn't on Juneteenth.

Mr. Revere noted what he's thinking would be to have a 3 day event. This would happen between Friday June 20th and then end on Saturday June 21st.

1. Oxford Bee Fest 2025

Oxford Bee Fest

Mr. Wooddell said we will be hosting our first Bee Fest on April 12, 2025. It will run 1:00pm - 8:00pm and held in the uptown parks. Ms. French said the race is called the "O.A.T.S & Honey" and they will use the same route as the 5k, a 10k may run a little more up toward Talawanda. We'll have 35 volunteers from SLAM class for an estimated 250-350 runners.

Mr. Wooddell stated there is a 5k event called the Michael B Hayes event that will happen the day after that with the route that will already be done from the "O.A.T.S. & Honey" run.

Ms. French stated the main difference from this year to last year is there will be a morning race and afternoon event. It will be one big day event instead of spread out. Ms. French added if you do the race and show up at the event, looking at giveaways such as get a free cup or something for doing both. The student group has been the most motivated group and invested in assisting in the running of the event. Mr. Wooddell noted the Bee associations will be involved with local honey for sale at the event and the live music will be provided by King Bee and the Stingers band as well as Thumbtack Mechanics, a very well known student band.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn - Mr. Wooddell asked for a motion to adjourn at 12:24pm.

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

AYE # 6

NAY # 0

ABS # 0