



**MINUTES
OXFORD RECREATION BOARD
OXFORD MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2024 AT 11:30 AM**

Call to Order

The Oxford Recreation Board was called to order by Ms. French on December 16, 2024 at 11:37am.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Agenda

1. Approval of the agenda for December 16, 2024 Oxford Recreation Board meeting.
1. Approval of the Agenda for the December 16, 2024 Oxford Recreation Board Meeting.
Motion to Approve
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Mr. Beissel
AYE # 4
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of minutes of November 18, 2024 Oxford Recreation Board meeting.
1. Approval of minutes from the November 18, 2024 Oxford Recreation Board Meeting.
Motion to Approve
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Mr. Beissel
AYE # 4
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Reports

1. Parks and Recreation Report

New Dog Park

The new grass is establishing well. We need to get the signage installed and benches, and the area should be ready to open. Looks like January though, at this point, just to be sure everything is complete. There are still opportunities available to sponsor a new bench (\$1200) as well as a shelter (\$3,000).

Shade Canopy

This project is taking longer than expected, but the company said installs will begin this week (and hopefully be finished this week). It will take some time though, and the weather isn't looking great.

Holiday Fest

Overall, Holiday Fest was a great success; lots of help from local partners such as Enjoy Oxford, Chamber of Commerce, Arts Center, and Miami Activities & programming. 2025 Holiday Fest will be held on Saturday, December 6th.

Aquatics & Program Supervisor Position

Two rounds of interviews have been completed; we will be finalizing our decision and notifying those applicants early this week.

2. Talawanda Report

Mr. Richardson noted winter sports are in full swing. Talawanda has their first swim competition this week. Wrestling is going on and doing well. Basketball had a big win last week and will be going to conference.

Winter break starts next week and students will be out for two weeks return on January 6th, 2025

3. Miami University Report

Ms. Meaney advised Miami is currently on winter break. Students will not return until January 27 to start spring classes, unless they are doing online classes or study abroad during winter break.

Mr. Beissel noted discussion continues on arena construction. They have received approval for 3.5 million for the architectural rendering. Looking at moving forward and looking at where to place the arena/sports center. The planning commission is narrowing down potential sites to 3-4 locations. The University will get feedback from stakeholders on campus and a weigh in from the University senate.

Mr. Beissel advised Miami University doesn't have a strategic plan when it comes to facilities, so part of the planning committee's job is to think about precincts and areas that would be a good fit for this type of facility and where we will place certain facilities and why.

Mr. Beissel added then comes the question of how the university will pay for this. Basically, the funds will come from two buckets. One with philanthropic gifts and two auxiliary funds, through students, the same as they paid for Goggin.

Mr. Revere stated he noticed Lewis place was on the list of possible locations for the arena. Mr. Beissel noted it was, but it was not going to be on the list moving forward. Mr. Revere stated he believes Lewis place is one of the black historic places in Oxford and he would like to state on record, that he would like to have it kept preserved in Oxford. Ms. French stated the Historic and Architecture Preservation Commission meets once a month on Wednesday nights and would be a good place to have that conversation.

Mr. Beissel added Miami is looking at Cook field as a potential location for a new hotel, event center and arena as a possible all in one site.

Old Business

New Business

Ms. French stated in regards to the Bee Fest race, using the name "O.A.T.S. and Honey" should not be a problem with Nature Valley. Mr. Beissel said maybe they would want to sponsor and hand out Oats and Honey bars with swag.

Ms. French added they will begin planning the bee race and looking at swag options after the first of the year. Looking at medals, water bottles, etc. Apparently, some participants will only participate if they like the medal they'll earn.

Mr. Revere asked who handled the art work because he would like to submit a bid to work on fliers and such for the City and the events they do. Mr. Beissel advised Ashley Keeton handles some of the art work in house and the city sends some out, adding asking Ms. Keeton would be the best place to start.

1. New Event Discussion - Juneteenth Celebration

Juneteenth Celebration Proposal

Mr. Revere asked to read the Juneteenth proposal he submitted to Mr. Wooddell.

Mr. Revere stated he would like to work with the City of Oxford, Miami University, Enjoy Oxford, the Oxford Pantry, Bethel AME Church and many others to collaborate together on this community event.

This event would be a three-day event and would include speakers, free food, games, music, and be an event that brings the community together.

Suggested dates: June 19, 2025 - June 21, 2025

Ms. Barbour stated during Mr. Wooddell's absence, there were a few questions he wanted to be asked.

1. Does Mr. Revere have a committee or group of volunteers to plan and operate this event? Mr. Revere stated yes, he did. Ms. French asked what the ballpark figure is of how many volunteers

he is thinking about planning and working the event? Mr. Revere stated he has 4 people confirmed, and he's working with and contacting Kim Daggy from Enjoy Oxford for more assistance.

Adding volunteers for the days of the event, he's still working on that, but has approximately 10 people to work the event.

2. Does Mr. Revere have a cost estimate and a funding source? This is not currently in the budget for the City to consider for 2025.

Mr. Revere noted his cost estimate is around \$25,000 for the 3 days. That is what he had discussed with Kim Daggy.

Mr. Revere is also looking into getting donations from grocery stores for the free food, adding if you have a 501c3, you can get donations from those places. He also wanted to ask the City about getting donations and sponsors.

3. What is he looking for specifically from the Recreation Board?

Mr. Revere has been a resident since May 2023 and hasn't seen a lot of representation in this community for black culture and feels this will give people something to look forward to. Mr. Revere added he feels it's valuable and important to the community. He's only asking for three days, since it's never been done before, and hopes the board will be in favor of the event.

Mr. Revere said he would like to personally start up an organization, so that in the future he could build up to have a budget for this and also future events. He is asking permission to be able to utilize the city's venues as requested and to provide funding and assist in the funding process by assisting in finding grants from the county and state, adding the main cost will be for the food on the Saturday portion of the event. Mr. Beissel noted at Otoberfest we do ticketing, so that could be looked into as an option as well.

Ms. French stated she really liked the idea, adding if he wanted to do something specifically at the Freedom Memorial, he would have to go through Miami University for that approval.

Mr. Beissel added Oxford normally has one event a month, and this could definitely be linked to that schedule, just find where it would fit best. Ms. French said there is the Electric Roots festival that is held in May. Mr. Revere said Electric Roots is a multicultural festival and is completely different from what he wants to offer to the community.

Ms. French noted she sees this as feasible, she likes the idea of a memorial walk and added that there are needs for road closures for safety and not a ton of involvement except public safety. Ms. French added she does think Oxford needs something like this, and gave him a heads-up that this may be scaled down to a one-day event.

4. Does he have anything to share from his meeting with Enjoy Oxford?

Mr. Revere noted he did speak to Kim Daggy from Enjoy Oxford, and she stated they will have a music festival on June 19th, and that could be what we could tie into. Mr. Revere stated he would be meeting with Ms. Daggy again and would bring that information to the next Recreation Board meeting.

Ms. French stated reaching out to the Oxford Community Arts Center may offer some opportunities as well. Mr. Revere stated he has spoken with Heidi at OCAC about Juneteenth, but will definitely continue the discussion. Ms. French said there are also two major historians in Oxford he should get in touch with and talk about an actual guided tour.

Mr. Revere advised he has done some history research himself, and he's a real advocate of history

and would love to meet the people Ms. French has in mind. Currently, he has a couple of people in mind as keynote speakers for the Juneteenth event, with one being Pastor Kato from Bethel A.M.E church. He reached out to Bethel A.M.E. Church, and they hold a candlelight vigil on the Thursday night prior to Juneteenth, and thought that would be a great starting point for the weekend event.

Mr. Beissel noted he thinks linking it to events that are already happening helps a lot with running this first time event and people will turn out. Advertise it widely on that Friday night and see what happens.

Mr. Revere shared a digital design he created with the Recreation Board, noting he put this together and is working toward getting his vendor license for his non-profit and would like to make t-shirts to sell at events and the Juneteenth event to make funds for his organization in order to continue these events every year in the future.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn - Ms. Barbour asked for a motion to adjourn at 12:26pm.

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

AYE # 4

NAY # 0

ABS # 0