



MINUTES OXFORD RECREATION BOARD

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

MONDAY, MAY 12, 2025 AT 11:30 AM

Call to Order

The Oxford Recreation Board was called to order by Mr. Young on May 12, 2025 at 11:31am.

Roll Call

Members in attendance were: Adam Beissel; Alex French; Sarah Meaney and Jacob Young

Members absent were: Jason Merz and Jake Richardson

Staff members in attendance were: Chad Smith and Deanna Barbour

Guest Visitor: Brian Revere

Approval of Agenda

1. Approval of the agenda for the May 12, 2025, Oxford Recreation Board.

Motion to Approve

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

AYE # 4

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the minutes from the January 27, 2025, Joint TRI Board/Oxford Recreation Board meeting.

Motion to Approve

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

AYE # 4

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Reports

1. Parks and Recreation Report

Mr. Smith advised he is very familiar with the city board and structure, adding he sees a lot of opportunity and is excited to get things going and will be relying on this board for ideas and support.

Mr. Smith stated last week was his first week and his current department report is that parks and rec staff are currently in the process of getting the pool up and running. They have done a great job keeping things on track in this busy time. Mr. Beissel asked if we would use a pool opening company this year? Mr. Smith advised Mr. Wooddell opened the pool last year. However, this year, especially with the transition to a new director, it was decided using a pool company to open was best. Mr. Smith stated moving forward we'll be looking into going with a pool company in the future for opening and closing as well.

Mr. Smith noted Ms. Tori Magner (Aquatics/Programs Supervisor) will be leaving on maternity leave, in June, and will be out during summer, adding Mr. Carter Rasmussen (Aquatics/Program Coordinator) will take the lead in her absence. Staffing is really good this year. We have a lot of returning guards, so we are in a good spot with summer staffing. Mr. Beissel asked when the pool was opening this year? Mr. Smith noted we are opening on Monday, May 26th, which is Memorial Day.

Mr. Smith stated Mr. Wooddell had a lot of things already set up and ready to go. One of which is Freedom Fest. Mr. Smith noted he spoke with Cincinnati Circus, the inflatables company, and the permit is set, the fireworks are scheduled and most of the food vendors are ready also. Last year, Michael Hodge of the Oxford Masonic Lodge approached parks and recreation about having the July 4th parade on the same day as their car show. Since it was around the same time we collaborated and several of their cars participated in the parade. This year Michael Hodge said he was so happy last year, they wanted to do it again. The parade will be held on Saturday, June 28 in conjunction with the Masons' car show.

2. Miami University Report

Ms. Meaney advised this is finals week. Oxford will have a change over and the students will be exiting this weekend. The share fest is looking good, everything is prepped and ready to go.

Mr. Biessel said typically we'll have something to discuss relating to physical activity and recently the new facility Miami will be building on Cook Field. When that happens that may impact soccer fields etc. Mr. Biessel noted Mr. Wooddell would have an RFP for this, adding getting lights on the soccer fields at the community park are needed but especially at the TRI fields, which are super outdated. When they built the park the lines are ready to go, and lights are very expensive. So he was thinking about Miami building on Cook Field and wondered what are they going to do with all those lights? He thinks it's worth inquiring about the Cook Field lights to see if they could be repurposed for use at the TRI or at the community park. If possible, there

could be a great savings there. Mr. Smith said that's a great opportunity for a discussion for sure and thanked Mr. Biessle for the idea, adding that the lights at the Voice of America Park (VOA) were hundreds of thousands of dollars, so he loves this idea.

Ms. French stated she would like to push for a collaboration for easy access to the water on the O.A.T.S. trail. The water fountain at peffer park has never worked. Mr. Smith noted he and his family are regular users of the O.A.T.S. trail, adding there are grant opportunities for water fountains. Ms. French said would be nice to put one at black covered bridge also, adding but that is township. It feels like a softball win. Mr. Smith said since the black covered bridge is a part of his previous employer he may know who to contact.

Old Business

Mr. Biessel stated the Recreation Board met with TRI Board at the joint meeting in January. He said the big question was how will we pay for this, but it looked like they're pretty far along and now they just need funding to keep moving forward.

Mr. Smith said there is a real need for this in this community and asked Ms. French when the O.A.T.S levy would be up for renewal? Ms. French said in 2027.

Mr. Young young said he spoke with Mayor Snively about a collaboration with the Parks and Recreation and the Senior Center. Mr. Smith stated sometimes that can be a good collaboration when you can have a multiple-use facility. Mr. Biessel noted he remembers that collaboration with the Senior Center being discussed in the past when there was a possibility of them needing to move locations, but since that changed they seemed to pull out.

Mr. Biessel advised -oxford tomorrow did a study and what came out of this was there is a need for a plan, a master plan. Mr. Smith agreed stating he found the old master plan for Parks and Recreation from 1997, so we definitely need a vision for the future and what the city wants and will need.

Mr. Revere attended the meeting today to further discuss the possibility of having a Juneteenth celebration. Mr. Revere noted he has submitted more numbers to Jessica Greene and doesn't want to feel pushed aside but hasn't received the cooperation he feels he should be receiving. Mr. Revere stated there is a population in this community that doesn't enjoy this city and he wants to give them an opportunity and others from outside the community to come and enjoy Oxford. It was the black masons who helped build this city and what he wants to bring to this city is opportunities for this community within Oxford. Mr. Revere has volunteers ready to go and he's submitted his proposal to the city. He's partnering with Enjoy Oxford and has 2 music groups coming in, and wants the city to supply funding for the event. He also has volunteers and had a fundraising event going on. Mr. Revere noted he proposed to Jessica Greene an event for \$7000 and he feels that is something that can be attained. Mr. Smith said it sounds like you have started the process and have gone through the right channels and we will be open to future conversations. Mr. Young added you started this in advance, however, this will need to go through city council, and it may be a challenge to get it done in a month. Mr. Young stated Oxford has a lot of African American history that needs to be discussed and he doesn't want what ever comes of this Juneteenth celebration this year, to mean it won't happen or get bigger in future years. His worry is that it's a month away, adding It doesn't mean the City of Oxford isn't interested in doing this, but getting the funds together now may be difficult.

Mr. Revere stated he knows by sitting in this meeting that with Mr. Smith's background in fundraising, it shouldn't be hard for us to come up with at least half of funds, if we really cared about this community we could get this funding together. Mr. Revere added he has a go fund me and individuals could donate to that, with a minimum of \$20 toward a t-shirt that all goes to support the Juneteenth event. Mr. Smith said everyone here is committed to doing things for this community, it's not that we don't want to do things for this community. We would be happy to meet with you in the future to discuss a future plan to help with this event. Mr. Revere stated you can support with funding, and that is what is needed.

Mr. Smith stated he will give him his contact information, adding his span of control is only Parks and Recreation and we may not be able give funding. Ms. French stated the City Manager makes the budget that is given to City Council each year and it has to be down to the penny. Ms. French noted these things take time and yes, we're talking about all these big numbers, however, these are things that can be a year, two years, five years down the line, not immediate. Ms. French stated some of these things, especially when working with grants and funding, it's a process that has to be put together. Mr. Revere said anything would work and help, if he needs to submit a list for the board he will do that. Mr. Revere said he appreciates what Ms. French said about the process and he's looking to have more information to supply so this event can be put into the budge for next year. Ms. French added he should use this time to discuss it more with Ms. Greene (Assistant City Manager) Ms. French advised following up with an email to Ms. Greene to see when the deadlines are would be the next step. Mr. Biessel stated this should be a discussion for the City Manager and Assistant City Manager.

Ms. Meaney stated from a person who sets up and runs large events, her heart breaks for him, since it's not like it's the first time we've heard of this. This is what we hope we inspire in others to communicate the wants in the community. She wanted to express that she thinks a lot of community members will enjoy this event, adding maybe Enjoy Oxford would be who to reach out to? Mr. Revere stated he has spoken with Enjoy Oxford.

Mr. Smith advised he will be happy to explore other opportunities and connect with Mr. Revere offline and discuss how we can connect in other areas.

New Business

Ms. French advised the bee race went really well and afterward Rena Murphy had a zoom meeting with myself, Ashley Keeton and Deanna Barbour and supplied a check list to give us for next year. Ms. French added next year we'll have a class project to help with the race and is looking into having a half marathon by 2027. The Butler County Bee Keepers Association was thrilled to be a part of this great event and we all look forward to next years event.

Mr. Revere noted he would like to see an urban art center built in this community and needs the city to back the idea. Mr. Smith stated when you look at strategic planning, you can see what the needs and/or wants are in the community, adding strategic planning will be what gets the ball rolling. Along with marketing research, which will also help with that and get a scope of what people want. Ms. French advised this council likes a plan, they do better when they can see what's ahead and she would advocate for a strategic plan. Mr. Smith noted that is good to hear, adding parks are an economic driver for communities. Ms. Meaney said if we could connect in with other trails outside of Oxford, that would be amazing and another great way of bringing other to our community. Mr. Smith stated that requires a lot of easements and he has some experience with that. Ms. Meaney noted she was in Loveland with her family and they ate ice cream and biked on the trail, at the little Miami trail

and it was a great experience. Mr. Smith stated some businesses will move to new areas because of a bike trail. Mr. Biessel said 20 years from now this is why a strategic plan is so important. Ms. Meaney asked do we have any decommissioned train lines around us. Mr. Smith not that he's aware, however, it's around 1million a mile in cost, but if you can find something abandoned that could be used, it would be a great option.

1. Introductions

2. Butler County Regional Transportation Authority Seasonal Expanded Transportation Routes Discussion

BCRTA - Mr. Smith wanted to take a look at this for seasonal transportation from Intown out toward the aquatic center. If people in the community could use transportation and pay \$5 per trip and then BCRTA invoice us and we pay for the transportation, could this be an option? Ms. French stated if we could get it at an affordable rate, more like per trip that may be do-able. Mr. Smith added this maybe a thought for us to discuss. Mr. Youch said that's the comment he's got from people in the community, that they wish they could go to the pool easily, so he would like to see what could be done to help with transportation to support Oxford residents. Mr. Smith noted he would circle back and let Ms. Greene know we've talked about it.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn - Mr. Young asked for a motion to adjourn at 12:58pm

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

AYE # 4

NAY # 0

ABS # 0