



MINUTES
OXFORD RECREATION BOARD
MUNICIPAL BUILDING 15 SOUTH COLLEGE AVE. OXFORD, OHIO 45056,
SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM.
MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2025 AT 11:30 AM

Call to Order

The Oxford Recreation Board was called to order by Mr. Smith on June 9, 2025 at 11:30am.

Roll Call

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

Members absent were: Jake Richardson and Jason Merz

Staff members in attendance were: Chad Smith and Deanna Barbour

Guest Visitor: Brian Revere

Approval of Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda for the June 9, 2025, Oxford Recreation Board

Motion to Approve

(Voice Vote) 1st Alex French 2nd Adam Biessel

AYE # 4

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the minutes from the May 12, 2025, Recreation Board meeting.

Motion to Approve

(Voice Vote) 1st Jacob Young 2nd Alex French

AYE # 4

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Public Comment

Mr. Smith opened up the floor for public comment. No public comment.

Old Business

1. Strategic Planning for Park System Discussion

Mr. Smith opened the discussion about a parks and recreation comprehensive plan. He spoke about a group that gave a quote for \$1000 for a comprehensive plan adding this is a good place to start. Ms. French said that sounds great. Ms. French noted she just saw the CIC development plan and this feels like a really correct time to take a look at doing this plan. Mr. Biessel added the main recommendation from Oxford Tomorrow was to have a comprehensive plan. Mr. Smith hopes to have the boards support and looks forward to moving ahead with this.

2. Potable Water Locations at Park Facilities

Mr. Smith advised since last months discussion on available water along the trails, he has learned that some fountains may not have been turned on for the season yet, due to low temperatures. Mr. Smith also wanted to note that peffer park's water is run by Miami and is on Miami property, not the city. Mr. Young advised the water at peffer park was on about two weeks ago.

Mr. Smith noted as for Dewit cabin area water fountain, he will take a look at those as well and see if those are on the map of the Oats trail. There is a water station at the horse stable. Ms. French said this will be a multi prong/city approach, meaning city, Miami, county etc to see about getting water out there. Mr. Smith added it's also very expensive to get water lines distributed to remote areas.

Ms. French stated where the T intersection is near gardenia drive would be a optimal location for a water fountain with something that will get water to people. Mr. Young said there should be one at every phase of the trail.

Mr. Smith thinks the dog park is starting to be a bit of a hub at that location. Mr. Biessel added once those water stations are put in then those would be good to put on a map to show users how they are strategically placed.

Mr. Smith noted in regards to the Leonard Howell location - he found in the capital budget from last year, where the possibility of moving the shelter closer to the parking lot was being looked at. Moving that shelter would open the field up for more soccer fields. and give better accessibility to the anyone in the parking lot. The one issue noted is that they would possibly need to move the water fountain from the middle of the field as well, however, it's still something to look at.

New Business

1. Grants

Mr. Smith advised under new business is the opportunity to get a robot for the sports fields. It's a tiny robot that paints the fields and ball fields. You enter in a grid and the robot will go out and paint the fields. It has a 5 year warranty and we would have a \$16,000 dollar match from the city. Staff did a cost benefit analysis and this will save us \$7500 a year, which he will share with city council. Mr. Beissel said it will pay for itself in 3-5 years, adding the fee cost for field rental is something that may go down or help with field cost in usage.

Mr. Young stated the robot could be used not just at the community park, but it could be used at the TRI as well. Mr. Smith reached out with the community foundation to discuss funds for parks and recreation.

Mr. Young advised that he initially got into this, being a board member, to save Merry Day park and thinks designating this area as green space is a good idea, adding his family donated the property and it was thought that it should be sectioned off for future use. we'll take the 5 acres and keep the 1.3 acres. Mr. Young noted the city placed a new playground structure out there last year. Mr. Smith stated we have grant funds to replace the toddler playground at the OCP this year adding he likes the idea of systematically replacing every playground. Mr. Biessel said something like that would probably end up in the master plan, along with lights on the field and possibly turf field are what's needed. Mr. Beissel noted part of the issue is cost of the lights which is a deterrent. However, flag football has exploded and home for flag football is the outfields. Mr. Beissel asked are we looking at 5-10 years to see the needs and if there is a better location that could become the home base for flag football, such as Leonard Howell? Or maybe find some pots of money, like US Soccer or NFL for funds to support this endeavor.

Mr. Smith noted he visited FC Cincinnati a while back to look into having a trade off with VOA (voice of America) and would like to speak with the Bengals for something similar for Flag Football. Mr. Young added or the Cincinnati Cougars could be an option, noting he went to several of their games. Mr. Biessel stated more strategic planning needs to be done for direction with this.

Mr. Biessel advised when he was on the soccer board he said they would bring in UC Cincinnati and they met with Mr. Wooddell to talk about what if the city would host this and it would bring in a tournament, how would that work. But we never had the bandwidth to bring this in, but if we could, this could bring down the cost for SAY Soccer from 100 a kid to 25 a kid.

Mr. Smith said if you can lease the fields for this tournament and can bring in funds that way, those are great options. He's looking for a plan that could help us in this way. Mr. Biessel or even flag football, this could be something to look at for field needs. Ms. French asked is this the next pickleball?

2. Capital Projects

Mr. Smith advised his observations at the TRI are the pickle ball courts are packed and stacked everyday. If the weather is decent the courts are packed. Next to the pickle ball courts, is the skate park which is not as heavily used. However, it's being used by scooters, bikes and motorized bikes that are not allowed in the skate park and he has reached out to a contact of Mr. Wooddells to discuss the soundness of the structures in the skate park. Mr. Smith has not found any grants for rehabbing what we currently have, adding he can only find grants for new construction. Mr. Smith advised it's current structure is a problem waiting to happen, noting he is all for subsidizing recreation facilities, but would rather subsidize something that is for more public use and has less maintenance requirements. Then maybe look at other locations for a

skate park, and possibly a construction company that may want to donate concrete for a new park. Ms. Smith is thinking about punting repair and wait for the assessment to come in. Mr. Biessel says if the public sees it's \$300,000 for repairs or \$100,000 to update pickle ball courts, it makes more sense to do pickle ball courts, and then open this meeting for public to attend to discuss. Rent the courts for \$75 hr.

Ms. French stated she doesn't seem to see a many skateboards on campus as seen in years past. She sees a lot of motorized options but sees more use for the public by returning it to a tennis court and using it for more pickle ball. Mr. Biessel said this could be the soup de jor of the day that could change with the needs of the public. Mr. Smith said it's good to see that you guys are supportive and on board with the needs of the community.

Mr. Smith asked if there were any other thoughts as we look at capital projects? Ms. French asked is there still a shade going up at the dog park. Mr. Smith said no, there is nothing in the budget at this time. Mr. Smith will look at funding for a shade structure for next year. Mr. Smith advised the current Barkham Park dog part sign was hit by the Rumpke truck and it will be replaced by Rumpke and set up farther away from the gravel entrance.

Mr. Biessle said this location has been used much more than ever thought, not only the playground, and dog park but also the trail.

Ms. French stated for new business she's started the cemetery plan tour and will get information sent over so it can be set up in recdesk for registration. Ms. French said the library helps her do all the research, adding in the past they learned to try to avoid Miami weekends but has found that it boosts Miami weekends registration. This year we will do the first 3 Saturdays in October and will start a little earlier this year. October 4, 11 and 19, at 10am at Woodside Cemetery, with this year focusing on black families in Oxford. We want to emphasize they are a small operation and need to make sure they are not related to Halloween at all. We want to do one evening tour and walk with a lantern and look at the Oxford Community Foundation for funds to pay for the lanterns, then next year would like to do a veterans tour.

Ms. Meany said Miami family weekend is on the 24-25 of October. Ms. French asked would the university do any marketing for this event? Mr. Young added the Apple Butter festival at Hueston Woods is on October 4th also.

Ms. Meany thinks the university would advertise it.

Mr. Young noted the one he attended was very Miami oriented. Ms. French said this one for this year is not Miami oriented.

Report

1. Parks and Recreation Administrative Report

Mr. Smith said he will be sending out dates and times for future board meetings and asked if all members were up for continuing a summer break this summer or to continue meeting though the summer.

Ms. Meaney asked if the meeting time could be changed, adding she has a weekly staff meeting that makes it impossible to be on time. Ms. Meaney noted if we could push it to 12:15 it would be better, and proposes to move the meeting.

Mr. Biessel is available on Monday and Tuesdays. Ms. French can do earlier but has standing

meetings from 1-2 every Monday.

Mr. Smith said we'll keep it the 2nd Monday of the month and move it to 12noon instead of 11:30am.

Mr. Biessel says it makes sense to keep going during the summer this year since we've missed so much already. Would like to see 6 months worth of calendar invites.

Mr. Smith will go ahead and create the meetings and send out.

Mr. Young inquired how is the pool going. Mr. Smith noted we opened on Memorial Day, and it's been chilly and the heater in the activity pool is not working but no complaints for now. We've also noticed the activity pool is leaking water and we've had a diver go in with dye to see where the leak could be and this has been a process. The dye could determine where the leak is which is on the north side of the activity pool and now coming back this week to go to that spot to see if we can repair the section and location of the leak. Mr. Biessel asked is there a budget for repairs or maintenance. Mr. Smith stated yes, there is an amount in the budget for repairs, which needs to be increased and looking forward to having a maintenance on schedule to do routine maintenance of the facility.

Ms. Meaney asked since we've had hotter falls is there a way to extend the dates past labor day? Mr. Smith stated what happens toward the end of the season is we run into kids returning to school and we loose more than half our staff. For safety we can't operate a facility of this size with a limited amount of staff, but definitely will take a look at it.

Mr. Smith advised Freedom Festival is coming up on July 3. Mr. Wooddell did a lot of teeing up for this event, so fireworks and inflatables are all set. The parade is set up with the Masons car show and we will have a staff member working at the parade line up and he will ask if any city council wants to ride in the parade this year.

Mr. Young asked at the wine festival, why are the generators not on the road and street and food vendors moved. Mr. Smith stated the Freedom Festival is at the Oxford Community Park.

Ms. Meaney asked is there a way for the food trucks to plug in at the park uptown. Ms. French said no, there is not enough power to support that.

Ms. French said speaking of uptown parks, could the new bathroom that's going to be built be moved to the corner and not take down the tree? stating she would have to speak to Mike Driesbach about the location. Mr. Smith stated the canon stays, but the tree needs to come down.

Mr. Smith was going to try and change the way pay to park worked at Freedom Festival by doing an online parking option but that doesn't seem to be able to work this year, since there is not a way to scan this year. It was a last minute idea, but it's probably not going to happen this year. Will definitely take another look at doing this next year and look into scanning options to be able to pay online that way.

2. Board Administrative Reports

Miami - Mr. Biessel noted there is nothing from Miami since last time.

Talawanda - Mr. Biessel shared Mr. Richardson had shared with him they are getting the replacement field done. Summer camps for pretty much every sport has gone through.

Ms. French - council plan?

Mr. Biessel said he thinks back to the capital improvement and thinks long term needs would be a bathroom at Leonard Howell.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn - Mr. Young motioned to adjourn at 12:47pm

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

AYE # 4

NAY #

ABS #