OXFORD RECREATION BOARD AGENDA:

August 11, 2025
15 South College Avenue, Oxford, Ohio 45056, Second Floor Large Conference Room
12:00 PM

Call to Order

Approval of Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda for the August 11, 2025 Oxford Recreation Board

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of Minutes from the July 14, 2025, Oxford Recreation Board Meeting

Public Comment

Old Business

1. Capital Budget
2. TRI Board Community Center
3. Sports leagues/partnership updates

New Business

1. Projected 2025 Improvements
2. Grants

Report

1. Parks and Recreation Administrative Report
2. Rec Board Administrative Reports

Adjournment

MINUTES
OXFORD RECREATION BOARD REOCCURING
15 SOUTH COLLEGE AVENUE, OXFORD, OHIO 45056. SECOND FLOOR
LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
MONDAY, JULY 14, 2025 AT 12:00 PM

Call to Order

The Oxford Recreation Board was called to order by Mr. Smith on July 14, 2025 at 12:02pm.

Roll Call
Members in attendance were: Adam Biessel; Alex French; Sarah Meaney and Jacob Young
Members absent were: Jason Merz and Jake Richardson
Staff members present were: Chad Smith and Deanna Barbour

Guest Visitors - Brian Revere and Kethan Babu from the Oxford Free Press

Approval of Agenda

Members in attendance were: Adam biessel; alex french; Sarah meany; Jacob young
Members absent were: jake Richardson; Jason Merz
Staff members in attence were: chad smith and deanna Barbour
Guest Visitor: Kethan Babu and Brian Revere

1. Approval of Agenda for the July 14, 2025 Oxford Recreation Board

Motion to Approve
(Voice Vote) 1st Alex French 2nd Jacob Young
AYE # 3
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of Minutes from the June 9, 2025, Recreation Board Meeting

Motion to Approve
(Voice Vote) 1st Alex French 2nd Jacob Young
AYE # 3

NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Public Comment

Mr. Revere thanked the Recreation Board for all their encouragement in regards to the Juneteenth celebration. He noted it was a wonderful event and he looks forward to an opportunity to host annual events yearly. Mr. Revere stated he has a meeting scheduled with Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager on July 16th to discuss future opportunities and events. Mr. Revere said hearing about the Parks and Recreation strategic planning process makes him realize the importance of bringing needs to the attention of the Board. Mr. Revere noted his organization "One United", wants to give a proposal to be included in the Parks and Recreation strategic plan about the addition of another art center, adding Community Arts are vital to all communities, along with inclusiveness in Oxford. This was discussed with Sam Perry in December and there was concern it would be in competition with the Community Arts Center. Mr. Revere stated it would serve as a complimentary addition to the community.
Ms. French gave congratulations to Mr. Revere on the Juneteenth Celebration. Adding there was a good turnout and the band was awesome. Mr. Revere said thank you, there were people who attended Middletown and up north and thinks it will grow in future years to come.
Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Revere for attending todays meeting and giving the board the update on the Juneteenth celebration.

Mr. Smith introduced Kethan Babu reporter from the Oxford Free Press.

Mr. Smith advised Public Comment is the time given to attendees not on the Recreation Board to voice needs, wants, opinions and concerns for the community. After public comment community members are welcome to stay or leave the meeting. The meeting then returns to the planned agenda schedule.

Old Business

1. Grant Update

Mr. Smith advised the resolution for the tiny mobile robot for sport field lining had passed. He was grateful that resolution passed, however we then received that the BWC who was funding the robot had moved it to the unfunded list. This change affected over 40 municipalities. This was a very unfortunate turn and the sales representative is working to get us other options adding maybe a lease option could be a way to still get this done. Mr. Smith added we may need to carry over the funds to next year, and will see how it goes.

2. Project Updates

Mr. Smith stated it looks like we will get through the season without any major repair. The pool is hoping and very busy everyday with this warm weather. In order to get customers through the entry lines quicker, we've implemented some customer service changes and routed the lanes differently and it's improved wait time a lot.
Mr. Young inquired have we met maximum capacity? Mr. Smith noted we are near capacity

during these hot days for sure.
Mr. Smith advised the slides will need waxed and resealed for next season, looking to do that possibly in the fall or next spring. There is also concrete work that will be needed for us to get to the pipe that is leaking. Will look at where we are budget wise before making that final call.

Mr. Smith said there will be a new flag pole installed at the aquatic center. This was generously provided by the Oxford Community Foundation.

Mr. Smith noted there will also be some repairs coming up for the ball field including fencing and dirt.
Ms. French advised the fountain at Peffer park has been on since last meeting and has been nice.

Mr. Smith informed the Board that the portion of the OATS trail that crosses the black covered bridge will be closed during bridge repairs. It may open end of August after repairs.

Mr. Smith stated there should also be a groundbreaking for the middle school and high school connector as well.

New Business

1. Capital Project Budget Submission

Mr. Smith advised he's submitted his portion of the capital budget. He learned that he was the only department that turned it in before the deadline. He also put in for a comprehensive strategic plan, and has spoken with a company from Indianapolis about the possibility of putting together a strategic plan and all the details. Mr. Smith mentioned this to the TRI Board and they are interested getting information and being a part of that as well.
Mr. Revere asked Mr. Smith if he could explain what the capital project budget is and added he wants to suggest and be put on record that he wants One United to be in the comprehensive plan as well. Mr. Revere stated he is trying to bring things to the community art wise through One United and is looking for the best way to go about doing that. Mr. Smith explained the capital project budget are requests for needs in our department for future years. The Parks and Recreation Department is in need of a comprehensive plan and is looking at ways to get one done. A comprehensive plan will plan out for the next 5-10 years what future needs the Parks department will need for growth. Mr. Smith is working with the company on getting a quote for a plan like that.
Mr. Revere asked who is the TRI Board? Mr. Smith noted the TRI Board is a non-profit board that came together approximately 56 years ago and donated land for the sole purpose of recreation. The building that houses the Parks and Recreation department is owned by the TRI Board and the City leases that building and uses it for all parks and recreation staff and programs. All TRI Board members are volunteers and want the best for the citizens of Oxford and continue to hold the same values as the original donors.

Outdoor Fitness
Mr. Smith advised another option we've been looking into is outdoor fitness courts. They are becoming more popular, these courts are set up as permanently constructed areas that allow for outdoor fitness with relatively low maintenance. Mr. Smith noted and there are grant dollars out

there for a project like this. Mr. Young asked what size are we looking at for an outdoor fitness court? Mr. Smith said basketball size would work and you could have a class out there for cross fit. Mr. Young noted this would be a good activity to place on the trail. Mr. Smith said he would like do a pilot and see what kind of interest there is and then look at possible locations, adding maybe look at 2026.

Pickle Ball
Mr. Smith advised pickle ball is very big right now and we're looking at expanding the courts.

Playgrounds
Mr. Smith noted playgrounds are also very important, and we're looking into state grants and federal grants since there is a lot of new technology out there to make them safer. Also, looking to getting these implemented in 2026.

Overall Improvements
Mr. Smith stated improvements are needed at a several of our facilities: athletic fields at OCP, Aquatic Center; Leonard Howell shelter and dog park. They are all in need of upcoming improvements. Mr. Smith does have a company that is providing a quote for some of these improvements. Mr. Smith noted we also have some money in the community foundation dog park fund that can be used toward some improvements for the dog park. We may see some things at the dog park where people can hit the QR code and provide funding and or information on needs and people will be able to donate from their phone on site. Some items requested for the new dog park are, 2 multi-use pet/human water fountains and shade structures. Ms. Meaney said trees are definitely needed at the dog park. Mr. Smith said and they will be great in 10-15 years from now.

2. TRI Board/Community Center Update, Future Recurring joint meetings?

Mr. Smith advised Doug Curry of the TRI Board has asked if this board would be interested in joining the TRI Board quarterly to discuss progress and the future of the TRI / Parks and Recreation.
Mr. Smith motioned for a joint meeting between the TRI Board and Recreation board to be held quarterly.
Motion to Approve
(Voice Vote) 1st Jacob Young 2nd Alex French
AYE # 4
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Mr. Young said yes, more brains and more people coming together wanting the same things is a great idea. Ms. French stated quarterly meetings will be a good fit. Mr. Young noted when we meet once a year we spend all out time talking about one thing and never get to discuss anything past that and thinks meeting more throughout the year will be very beneficial.
Mr. Biessel stated creating a sub-committee that is only focused on just the new facility, plus adding more meetings together to get momentum going is a good idea also.
Ms. Meaney said if this is an accountability meeting, she thinks that is a good thing, but not for the Recreation Board to take over all business.
Mr. Smith said meeting quarterly we know this will be a 2 hour commitment each meeting.
Ms. French stated morning meetings look good for her. Looking at what will fit in everyone's

schedule, 8am-9am TRI and 9am-10am Recreation Board. It doesn't have to be morning, just throwing out options. Mr. Smith is seeing everyone's interested in having more meetings with them and will discuss with Mr. Curry and start looking into dates and times.
Mr. Smith added the TRI Board is interested in hiring a new consultant and are very excited to get moving and feels this group will be beneficial to the progress.

3. Sport league partneships/updates

Mr. Smith said Miami Little League had wrapped up their season. They have expressed interest in partnering with us for field improvements. Ms. French asked is this for the TRI Field? Mr. Smith said no, this is at the community park. Adding the TRI field is not used as much and the community park is where they are interested in putting their funds.
Mr. Biessel stated that if they wanted to give funds to the community park, wouldn't it make more sense to have the batting cage in the community park? Mr. Smith said he thinks the leagues would love it out there and that he knows similar conversations have been discussed. Mr. Smith said that Oxford SAY soccer are changing their name to Oxford Recreation Soccer. FYI, we will collaborate on a new contract with them and this is a chance to take a look at what things look like and what improvements are needed and look at contracting field marking for large tournaments.

Flag Football
Mr. Smith advised flag football has 160 registrations and continues to grow every year. Mr. Biessel noted Cincinnati flag football is exploding, so he sees this continuing to grow also. Adding how do we get a dedicated flag football space and how do we essentially accommodate a new sport? Yes, it's a problem sometimes, but it's a good problem to have.

Miami partnership
Mr. Smith advised he met with a representative from Miami and discussed a partnership with Parks and Recreation and offering ticket discounts for kids in our programs. Ms. French said that is a great idea.
Ms. French said having a raffle to win a ticket package could be a option. Mr. Young stated he knows all Bantam Football kids get to attend a game at the end of their season and thinks it's a great incentive for the kids.
Ms. French noted Miami is the official university of the Cincinnati Bengals, it would be very cool if they did a watch party for a game and put a screen uptown. Ms. French said we tried doing a viewing during the Notre Dame game and there ended up being an issue with it.

Homecoming
Mr. Smith advised the homecoming parade this year is a combination between Talawanda and Miami. Mr. Young stated this will be fun and is a good way to bridge communication.

Report

1. Parks and Recreation Administrative Report

Mr. Smith advised the Parks and Recreation Learning Blocks Lead Preschool teacher has resigned and her last day is Friday, July 25. If anyone knows anyone in the education world that is interested in being a preschool teacher full time, let them know and encourage them to apply. In addition we are still hiring positions for lifeguards and concession staff for the remaining summer.

2. Board Administrative Reports

Miami University report
Mr. Biessel noted not much going on until the students return in August. There's nothing realted to captial improvemetns physical facilities

Ms. French stated council just reviewed our strategic plan and it almost passed unamimously, so she will be interesed to see how much gets implemented. Thinks the strategic plan will go a long way to show what can be done.

Mr. Biessel advised the turf at from the Talawanda field is nearly done, adding it will be so good for soccer, football etc. The field turf at the high school was so matted down it was in desperate need of replacement. Currently getting ready for fall sports and with some starting the first week of August. Mr. Smith said he saw the field turf online and it looks awesome!
Mr. Biessel added the Talawanda high school gym will be out of commission as the flooring gets redone also.
Mr. Biessel noted the transfer to a new conference for Talawanda with them moving to the Southwest Buckeye League, puts them in a more of a legitamite conference. Mr. Smith asked if they are equivalent to a division 3. Mr. Biessel said yes, there will be a little more travel involved but more opportunities for the players and it will benefit all teams across all sports with more competitiveness.

Mr. Young asked about reserving pickle ball courts, noting someone asked him again and he told them to go online to the OPRD website. Mr. Young noted people are still trying to get pickleball out at the community park. Mr. Smith advised we're looking at moving the batting cages to the community park. Having the basketball courts in both locations makes sure the community is well taken care of and the TRI provides the secondary location for sports.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn - Mr. Smith motioned to adjourn at 1:04pm
(Voice Vote) 1st Alex French 2nd Jacob Young
AYE # 3
NAY #
ABS #