



MINUTES
OXFORD RECREATION BOARD
15 SOUTH COLLEGE AVENUE, OXFORD, OHIO 45056, SECOND FLOOR
LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2025 AT 12:00 PM

Call to Order

The Oxford Recreation Board was called to order by Mr. Smith on August 11, 2025 at 11:59am.

Roll Call

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

Members absent were: Jason Merz; Jake Richardson

Staff members present were: Chad Smith and Deanna Barbour

Guest Visitors: Kethan Babu from Oxford Free Press

Approval of Agenda

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

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

Motion to Approve

(Voice Vote) 1st Alex French 2nd Sarah Meaney

AYE # 4

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Approval of Minutes

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

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

Motion to Approve

(Voice Vote) 1st Alex French 2nd Sarah Meaney

AYE # 4

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Public Comment

Kethan Babu - no public comment

Old Business

1. Capital Budget

Mr. Smith stated it's an exciting time working on the capital budget. All departments have submitted their budget and all have met with the Doug Elliott, City Manager. Next step is meeting with City Council on September 8. Mr. Smith has not heard what has been approved yet, so he's hoping to get good news on the 8th.

Mr. Smith stated he's spoken with Pros Consulting Inc. out of Indiana discussing the possibility of a strategic plan. Two of them are Miami alums, so there's a lot of knowledge of the area and interest in helping out. Mr. Smith said to get this funded we would have to go out for RFP and a comprehensive strategic plan would have to combine the parks and the TRI facility to get a good perspective of the available facilities as a whole.

Mr. Biessel said a collaboration with student groups at Miami may be a good opportunity to tap into free resources. If some of the labor could be outsourced to a class for a cost savings, even if it's just a small portion of it, he thinks the kids would eat that up. Mr. Smith noted he would discuss the possibility of outsourcing some options with the company.

Ms. French added it would also help if others wanted to write letters and show up to the council meeting and show support for this. Being present goes a long way in supporting this endeavor. Mr. Smith stated he appreciates any additional support and feels this plan would set us up for the next 10 plus years and would certainly get some payoff for this investment, adding so the more champions showing support for this the better.

Mr. Biessel reminded the Board the last Parks and Recreation Strategic plan was made in 1997, we are due.

2. TRI Board Community Center

Mr. Smith advised he will meet with the TRI Board this Friday, August 15. He will discuss with them about setting up more joint meetings for both boards moving forward. Having meetings quarterly will be more beneficial than once a year. Then both boards can keep up with what's going on easier.

Mr. Biessel stated he was thinking when it comes to hosting tournaments and making contacts, the TRI is kind of a part of a 3 legged stool between the TRI, Talawanda and Miami. Looking at future opportunities with camps and clinics, it may become a hub for a national field hockey camp for the summer, and this would be a part of the 5-10-15 year plan. Mr. Smith said a plan

will definitely give us much needed direction and opportunities.

Mr. Smith noted he attended a sports tourism summit last week and they talked about how to go out and market ourselves and bring in tournaments that will bring in people and groups to our community.

Ms. Meaney said a strategic plan for Parks and Recreation could also be a recruitment tool for Miami, if you're bringing in more groups and tournaments to the community, why wouldn't they take advantage of that.

Ms. Meaney added if you play your championship games on Miami's field there's an even bigger opportunity for Miami. Mr. Biessel stated when the new TRI facility is built it will have 3 courts and then Miami Rec. Center has 3 courts, then a basketball tournament can come here and use all the facilities working together.

3. Sports leagues/partnership updates

Mr. Smith advised flag football enrollment at OPRD is way up this year and practices are getting started this week.

Mr. Smith stated SAY Soccer is now Oxford Recreation Soccer. This change allows Mr. Smith to take a look at the contract that's been around for over 15 + years and get it updated. Mr. Smith will be working with John Reineke of Oxford Recreation Soccer to put this new contract together between the City and Rec. Soccer. Mr. Smith noted it would be beneficial to maybe bring in a sponsor or two on the city side because it's important to get some improvements done on the fields.

New Business

1. Projected 2025 Improvements

Oxford Aquatic Center

Mr. Smith advised some major repairs are to come at the pool. We will not know what type of repairs are needed until the pool is drained and in some areas cement dug up. Mr. Smith stated there is a 25,000 capital budget line set aside for pool repairs, but the cost may go over what's budgeted, so there may be an opportunity for emergency repairs. Ms. Smith added we don't have to pay for the water, but we do have to pay for the chemicals and, with a water leak this big, we're really going through the chemicals.

Mr. Smith said he's looking to get more quotes on some painting projects also.

Ms. Meaney asked how the survey was coming along at the Aquatic Center. Mr. Smith stated it went really well, adding we will send out the results if the board is interested. Ms. Meaney said she filled out the survey and wondered how much feedback we received. Mr. Smith said this was Carter Rasmussen's (Program Coordinator) idea, and he sent the survey to all pool pass participants and so far we've received over 90 responses with a lot of good and helpful feedback.

Learning Blocks Preschool

Mr. Smith stated a new preschool teacher had been hired. Stephanie Martin is now the new preschool teacher and administrator. She worked for us as a camp counselor this year and has been a teacher for many years and we are very happy to have her with us. Right now, our

preschool is a huge asset for the community, with a real need for childcare in the community, and we think she will do a great job.

Mr. Smith has changed the role a little bit. For years, it was put under our program supervisor when it was a part-time preschool and was never changed when the preschool became an all-day program. With this staff change happening, he felt it was the perfect time to pull the preschool out and make it its own thing separate from programs. This is one big change that's happened in the structure of the department.

Attic

Mr. Smith noted the Attic was implemented in 2020 during the pandemic to be a teen center. Prior to that it was a women's weight room. It has never received the usage that was anticipated when it was created. Looking for better usage, and knowing biggin changes are hopefully to come at the TRI, we still need and want to give better office space to our staff than they currently have. We have staff crammed into areas that are not optimal for work. We want to move away from the Attic game room/teen area change it to a much needed office space.

Lending Library

Mr. Smith advised a new lending library (Oxford Little Free Library) will be installed around the swing area near the skate park as a little free library. This library will focus on adolescent readers. The project is funded via grant applied for by Miami University Department of English Education and they have agreed to oversee it and stock it with the help of undergraduate and graduate students. They originally wanted to set up on the OATS trail. Mr. Smith said after a discussion with Mr. Driesbach, Service Director, and decided the trail was not the appropriate location for a lending library. Ms. French asked where they orginally wanted to place it on the OATS Trail? Mr. Smith stated they wanted one across from the Bowling Alley and one at Peffer Park. However, these were not the best locations for maintenance and security purposes. Ms. French said she doesn't know how much the one at Leonard Howell gets used. Mr. Smith said the one at Leonard Howell is for younger children and served by a separate group. Mr. Smith said he encouraged them to do a prototype since there is a lot of interest in little free libraries right now and an opportunity for both groups to partner. Mr. Biessel stated the area near the dog park across from Leonard Howell may be an option. Ms. French said the bridge area may be a good option also. Mr. Smith said a parking area would probably be a better option than in the middle of the trail also.

2. Grants

Field Robot Grant, Rotary funds

Mr. Smith advised the grant for the field robot was cut at the last minute. So we are looking at other grant and funding options. We've also received funds from the Hefner grant and from the Rotary that helps with the purchase of lifejackets for the aquatic center and scholarships for pool passes and swim lessons.

1. Parks and Recreation Administrative Report

Ms. French asked do we have a hard date when the covered bridge is going to be done? Mr. Smith said he doesn't have an exact date but had heard by the end of August. Ms. French asked did they look into doing a rebuild of the bridge? Mr. Smith stated he didn't think they did, adding the engineering on a new bridge would be astronomical.

Ms. French asked the 2025 date for the uptown Halloween event? Mr. Smith said it is October 30th Same as previous years. We do the games, and pet costume contest. and the Lions Club does the parade and youth costume contest.

Ms. French stated for next year she has talked about doing an Oxford cemetery tour for veterans in 2026.

2. Rec Board Administrative Reports

Miami Report

Mr. Biessel said students come back next week. Ms. Meaney stated welcome weekend for the students will be a big thing over Labor day holiday.

Uptown splash pad and public restroom

Mr. Young asked about the splash pad uptown wondering what group it falls under. Mr. Smith stated it falls under Community Development, adding there have been some delays due to the bathroom situation. Mr. Young said it originally wasn't meant for kids but that's what it's turned into. Mr. Smith knows there was some issues with the costs so this was grandfathered in, however, adding features would take that away. Ms. French said there have been many complaints on the big historic tree being removed, if they do go forward with placing the outdoor public restroom there. Mr. Smith added there's a lot of concern with a public bathroom in regards to maintenance, upkeep and safety. Ms. French said and if we lock it then there are other problems that come with it being locked. Mr. Biessel said what about looking at another indoor option. Such as adding a public bathroom to the back side of the Enjoy Oxford Buidling. This could be a better option than moving the historic tree and building an entire separate single bathroom.

Ms. Meaney noted if the splash pad is staying the same this would be the opportunity to look at other options. Adding she's more interested in finding an area, like a store front or a-part of a building such as what Mr. Biessel stated, as a better option for a public bathroom.

Mr. Smith noted there is big interest in public restrooms. There's even been an inquiry about having a public restroom at the dog park. Costs for an public restroom such as they want uptown is estimated at \$400,000. One was wanted at Metro Parks and they decided not to pursue that but also at Metro Parks we had success with green flush technology and the cost is a lot less. The big restraint with having one at the dog park is it's in a flood plane and it's close to one of the city wells. May do a study to see what options we would have. However, a green flush toilet would run \$180,000 and could possibly be something that came from OATS. Mr. Biessel said when you're cycling or running this could be a great addition.

Mr. Biessel stated this is another reason for a strategic plan, because he's always felt Leonard Howell has always been underutilized. This could be a much more attractive space, and it

continues to have more and more usage.

Ms. French in regards to uptown she would like to have a sign that stated no motorized scooters in the public square. There has been some issues with them being ridden in the square. Mr. Young said an elderly woman had her foot ran over by a guy on the scooter and it was very upsetting.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn - Mr. Smith motioned to adjourn at 12:50pm.

(Voice Vote) 1st Sarah Meaney 2nd Alex French

AYE # 4

NAY # 0

ABS # 0