



MINUTES OXFORD RECREATION BOARD

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025 AT 12:00 PM

Call to Order

The Oxford Recreation Board was called to order by Mr. Smith on September 8, 2025 at 12:00 noon.

Roll Call

Members in attendance were: Adam Biessel; Jacob Young; Jake Richardson and Sarah Meaney

Members absent were: Alex French and Jason Merz

Staff members present were: Chad Smith and Deanna Barbour

Guest Visitor: Aiden Cornue reporter with the Oxford Free Press

Approval of Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda for the September 8, 2025 Oxford Recreation Board

Motion to Approve

(Voice Vote) 1st Jacob Young 2nd Adam Biessel

AYE # 3

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of Minutes from the August 11, 2025 Oxford Recreation Board Meeting

Motion to Approve

(Voice Vote) 1st Jacob Young 2nd Adam Biessel

AYE # 3

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Public Comment

Mr. Smith asked for public comment. No comments.

Old Business

1. 2025 Project Updates

Mr. Smith stated he is currently preparing an RFP for the CDBG grant funding that will be coming out soon. This RFP is for the playground replacement at the little playground between the ball fields at the Oxford Community Park. This is a federal grant that is funded through the county commissioners. This is the same way we replaced the Merry Day Playground and we're lucky enough to have this opportunity again. Mr. Smith noted the playground budget is \$100,000 which is great and we'll try to get the bids in before October, so he's excited about that.

Mr. Smith advised he's looking at making minimal improvements at the ball fields. On the smaller baseball fields, bleachers are needed, so doing a couple bleachers on either side would be great for families. Looking to do a shared expense with Miami Little League, and also looking to add some fencing and shade over some of the dugouts to make the players a little more comfortable as well. Mr. Biessel advised Landmark has closed their doors and are getting rid of all their old bleachers and other items. This could be a good connection to make and see if you could score some inexpensive bleachers that are in good shape. Mr. Biessel said to reach out to Tom Sunderland, he's the girls basketball coach at Badin, noting most of their sports from Landmark have moved to Spooky Nook. Mr. Smith said that is some great news and will definitely spread the word on that to contact Mr. Sunderland.

Mr. Smith added he's also looking at the leak coming from the Aquatic center leisure pool. Mr. Smith stated this isn't catastrophic, but the chemicals we're losing is a problem. With assistance from the City service department, we're trying to figure out where the leak is coming from. Mr. Smith said we were able to make some cosmetic updates at the Aquatic Center over the summer, but we really need to focus on the leak right now. Mr. Smith stated we did use some money from the community foundation to update the basketball hoops at the pool, it was a small update that we were happy to do and received good feedback from the community for the update.

New Business

1. Park Improvements

2. Upcoming OPRD Events

Mr. Smith advised the Oxford Parks and Recreation department provided the kick off breakfast this morning for the Senior Master Games. The Master Games will go on for the next 2 weeks with lots of competitive events, such as croquet and horse shoes at the Oxford Community Park and pickleball at the TRI. We support these events and it is a great event to be a part of.

Mr. Smith said the next round of Parks and Recreation events are right around the corner starting

with TRICK or TREAT OPRD Style Halloween event on October 30th in the uptown parks. He has already submitted the right of way for this event. Ms. Meaney asked is this the same Halloween event that is held every year, adding she thought it was held earlier in October? Mr. Smith stated yes, this is the event that is in coordination with the Lions Club parade adding it's always held the Thursday before Halloween and that's where this one fell. Mr. Smith noted we will also have a pet costume contest, which seems to be a community favorite.

Mr. Smith advised Tuesday, November 11, will be the Veterans' Day ceremony in the uptown parks at 11am. The preschoolers from OPRD Learning Blocks will say the Pledge of Allegiance and he will reach out to the Talawanda Middle school choir to sing.

Mr. Smith noted Saturday, December 6th will be the Oxford Holiday Festival, also held in the uptown parks with Santa at Enjoy Oxford. Mr. Smith has secured the contract with the company that will supply the fun activities and has spoken with Miami about assisting with the funding.

Mr. Young asked have you contacted the TRI Board about setting up a meeting to meet us. Mr. Smith said yes, adding typically this is done annually, but he thinks we should start having the joint meetings quarterly. Mr. Smith said the TRI has expressed interest in contributing to a strategic plan and this will allow everyone to be on the same page. Mr. Smith said he's been working with a consultant group to discuss what would overlap and what would be separate, what would be related to the TRI and what would be city only.

Mr. Biessel asked what is a typical timeline for this masterplan. Mr. Smith said 8-10months once you get them hired. Mr. Smith said we could potentially use this particular meeting as a place for those questions. This is a lengthy process and they cover a lot of ground, meeting not only with City staff, but community members as well. Adding a lot of the decisions we're wanting to make, we're wanting to hold off on until after the plan is in process.

Ms. Meaney asked how did the doggie dip go? Mr. Smith said he heard we were at capacity, stating it was a full house and everyone had a great time with no issues. Ms. Meaney

Sarah meany it is a fundraiser

chad is looking at having people having people sponsor and develop corporate sponsorship policies and also naming rights policies. will be easier than doing door prizes and all of that.

may look at some trailing opportunities for next season early, so we can have them ready to go when the pool opens.

Mr. Smith advised the October cemetery tours are set up Recdesk. The are online and ready to take registrations.

Report

1. Parks and Recreation Administrative Report

Kiwanis

Mr. Smith has a meeting set up with Kiwanis to discuss their interest in doing something with Parks and Recreation for their 150 years in Oxford.

OPRD - re-organization

Mr. Smith advised OPRD has gone through a small re-organization. When we had the resignation of the last preschool administrator, it was an opportunity to re-vamp the current department structure. We hired a new preschool teacher/administrator that offers more of a school based curriculum. This allowed us to move the preschool out from under the aquatic and programs line of responsibility, giving them more opportunities to focus on aquatics and youth/teen programs.

Mr. Smith stated we've also been able to create office space for Ms. Magner, Aquatics/Programs Supervisor and Mr. Rasmussen, Aquatics/Programs Coordinator in the old location of the Attic. The Attic started during the pandemic and never received the usage warranted to justify the space. We were able to donate all the game consoles to the Bunker Hills home for boys and they were so excited for the donation. The air hockey table will live at the aquatic center and will come out in the summer for use.

Oxford Community Foundation

Mr. Smith noted earlier in the summer he worked with the Oxford Community Foundation and found there was a fund for the original Northside dog park. Mr. Smith added he also wanted to establish a fund for the new dog park, so what they did was change the name from Northside Dog park to just the Oxford Dog Park. This will allow the fund to be used for incremental improvements to the new dog park. The Oxford Community Foundation will run a message in their quarterly magazine letting them know how to donate to the dog park. Mr. Smith also wants to put a QR code on the Barkham Park sign to allow people the opportunity to donate directly to Barkham Dog park and possibly toward a certain amenity. Mr. Smith added he would also like to do similar things like this to allow people that want to donate towards other items in our parks.

2. Rec Board Administrative Reports

Miami Report

Ms. Meaney said students are back. She's hearing more chatter about peoples feelings about Miami building a new sports area and thinks it's going to be a positive change. Mr. Young said people are asking if Miami is going to move the bell tower to accommodate the new facility, adding he took a photo and thinks it will be fine.

Mr. Smith said we have Leonard Howell and he looks forward to working with Miami with any needs they may need.

Mr. Biessel stated once the strategic plan gets going he thinks this would be a great opportunity for economic revenue generation thinks there is really opportunity there.

Mr. Smith said and local merchants would be happy about that as well. lots of communities are finding nitch summer sports.

Mr. Biessel noted we already do Epic Cup Soccer Tournament and looking at other things like that would be proactive.

Mr. Biessel advised the message is we're in a situation of change and the moment of change is the new norm. Adding he thinks we're going to be in a perpetual state of change and doesn't know if that will change for a while.

Ms. Meaney said this is the point where the ground is moving and it's the perfect time to get the right partners together.

Mr. Biessel said a lot of universities are getting more enrollment than Miami, but they're giving discounts to get those numbers. Miami had done a real good job with balancing enrollment and growing without having to give away a lot with discounts and things. Ms. Meaney thinks enrollment will either hold steady or go down, adding Miami is positioned well, but the bodies for people that are going to college is going to go down come next fall. However, Miami does have a sustained approach to that.

Hike-a-thon

Mr. Young advised he attended the hike and noting it turned out great. He made it into the Dewitt cabin for the first time. Mr. Smith asked if he saw the black bonnet? Adding there is a legend that a black bonnet was found in the cabin when it was being restored. Mr. Young said he didn't see the bonnet but there was a lot of people out there with their bikes and walking, it was perfect weather and a good turn out.

Talawanda Report

Mr. Richardson advised they are in the middle of fall athletics. Golf is at the end of the season and in two weeks they'll be in state tournament play. Mr. Richardson stated they're trying to build that program a little bit.

Mr. Young said we've lost several good players. Mr. Richardson said yes, so we're trying to build on our current players.

Mr. Richardson noted the Talawanda football team is having success; their running back has completed 863 yards. That's exciting, and the game this week will be at home, so that will be a good one. Mr. Smith said he heard the last game was sold out.

Mr. Richardson stated other sports are going well and girls cross-country is also going well.

Mr. Richardson said the homecoming parade will be at the same time as Miami's this year, and they are coordinating with them. Homecoming should be really fun this year.

Mr. Smith added he sent over the multi-use agreement to Shawna Tafelski, and she said it's going to the school board meeting for approval.

Pickle Ball Courts

Mr. Smith said the pickle ball courts are busy every day at the TRI. He'd heard of some private pickle ball courts that have volunteers help with the upkeep, and he's interested in that. He would like to set up a volunteer group that would be interested in helping take care of the courts, additional daily clean-up and fairness in usage and scheduling, since we have so many regular users.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn - Meeting adjourned at 12:44pm
(Voice Vote) 1st Jake Richardson 2nd Sarah Meaney
AYE # 4
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

