



OXFORD RECREATION BOARD AGENDA:

December 8, 2025

College & Elm, 3rd Floor Meeting Space, 20 South Elm Street, Oxford, OH 45056

12:00 PM

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of Minutes from the November 13, 2025 Oxford Recreation Board Meeting
2. Approval of Minutes from the September 8, 2025 Oxford Recreation Board Meeting
*Quorum was not met at previous meetings for approval of minutes

Public Comment

Presentation

1. Miami University Geography 442 Capstone Project: Equitable Access To Parks

Old Business

1. OPRD Project Updates
2. Events and Programs

New Business

1. Parks Master Plan RFP

Report

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

Adjournment



MINUTES
OXFORD RECREATION BOARD
MUNICIPAL BUILDING 15 SOUTH COLLEGE AVE. OXFORD, OHIO 45056,
SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025 AT 12:00 PM

Call to Order

The Oxford Recreation Board was called to order by Mr. Smith on November 10, 2025 at 12:01pm.

Roll Call

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

Members absent were: Sarah Meaney; Jason Merz and Jake Richardson

Staff members present were: Chad Smith and Deanna Barbour

Guest Visitors - none

Approval of Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda for the November 13, 2025 Oxford Recreation Board

Motion to Approve

(Voice Vote) No quorum was reached - vote to approve will be done at next meeting.

AYE # 0

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of Minutes from the September 8, 2025 Recreation Board Meeting

Motion to Approve

(Voice Vote) No quorum was reached - vote to approve will be done at next meeting.

AYE # 0

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Public Comment

None

Old Business

1. Park Improvements

Ballfield dugout concrete pads at OCP

Mr. Smith advised the concrete pads for fields 5 and 6 have been poured at those locations. Jesse Baker did the work adding bleachers will be installed in the spring. Mr. Smith noted the Hefner grant is around \$4500 and we will use that to pay for the bleachers through the Rotary. Mr. VanWinkle and Mr. Gagnon are looking forward to having bleachers at these locations for games.

Oxford Community Park small playground

Mr. Smith stated the Bid proposals were done in house due to time constraints. DWA Recreation won the bid for the small playground, located at the Oxford Community Park next to the concession stand.

We found out afterward that DWA also has an internal grant program, that could evolve into a bigger playground structure option. Five companies submitted proposals with one company missing the deadline and had to be removed from the vote. Current status is pending council approval, this will be a resolution at the next City Council meeting.

Oxford Community Park Field Marking Robot

Mr. Smith advised the Robot is back on. It was stalled for a while due to Tiny Robot losing their grant funding, however, Tiny Robots wants to work with us and has come up with a solution to fix the loss of the grant.

Mr. Smith stated \$75,000 is the cost of the robot with \$16,000 of it was in grant money. The City had grant money from Ohio BWC funds to match and then Tiny Robots lost their grant money and everything stopped. We stayed in contact with them and reconnected with them over the summer. There is no grant and they are going to sell us the same robot for \$39,000 and break up the payments into 3 payments for the next 3 years.

Mr. Smith noted this robot will also have multiple uses, it has an attachment that will be able to strip parking lots and be usable by the street department, etc. If we can get the contract approved we can move forward with this item. This will also be a resolution at the next council meeting.

New Business

1. OPRD Project Updates

Mr. Smith advised this years CDBG funds allocated for a dog park shelter and Leonard Howell playground are now going to be transferred over to the building of a concrete skate park instead. Funds will be available in 2026, and we will be able to break ground in 2027 at a cost of \$225,000. Mr. Smith said he knows pretty much what we're working with, and the new

concrete will be about 5000 sq ft. area. Some people are aware, and he will keep those interested informed about the timeline etc. Adding, as for location, the TRI board is not super interested in having it at their location, but still not completely set against it being there. The city will look at other options such as Leonard Howell and the TRI location and will have time in the next year to decide on a new location. Mr. Smith thinks it will easily fit in to the area behind the big playground at the TRI if the TRI becomes the final destination. Mr. Young thinks the public and him contacting them shows the TRI the importance of the skate park in the community. Mr. Smith said the decision to close the skate park was the correct one. The old one was torn down with a lot of rotted wood underneath. It took up 4 rumple dumpsters to haul it away. Ms. French stated she totally gets the shrink of the area from 7500 to 5000, but can we let those interested know what good is coming and not just the size is what is important. Ms. French asked is there an opportunity for a stop gap in the duration. Mr. Smith said he doesn't think there is an option out there that makes the most sense. Ms. French said she will do her best to state that we are doing what we can, an in between option is just not feasible. Mr. Smith advised the firm he met with out of Canada said the current option can be made bigger in the future when the funds come available. Mr. Young stated he thinks placement is the most important and green space is as well.

2. Events and Programs

Mr. Smith advised on upcoming events and programs, noting Veterans Day will be held tomorrow, indoors at OCAC and the Holiday Festival is on December 6th in the uptown parks from 4:30pm - 8:30pm.

Mr. Smith noted we have a Miami football promo code, the first project with Miami athletics, and Mr. Smith stated he wants to get people in the stands for them. Miami gave 45% off for the flag football families to go attend a football game. He hopes to build on that and hopefully do some cross marketing in the future.

Mr. Biessel said with regard to Miami building a new sport /entertainment facility to replace Millett hall on cook field is to think about collaboration with other locations and renting that out and creating those events that spill out all over Oxford. Also, if Miami doesn't want to run the events, they could possibly run it all through Spooky Nook in Hamilton and subcontract through them. Also, since they don't have any outdoor facilities, they may e willing to work together to have other options for usage. Mr. Biessel noted this will be a state-of-the-art facility, and he wants the university to keep that in mind and strategically think about making this a sports center. There's a real opportunity that in the summer months May - August this could be a real destination place for the City as well.

Mr. Smith stated, You're speaking my language, Mr. Biessel. Let us use your facility and let us manage it for you sounds great. Ms. French said we do have a resolution at our disposal and asked Miami to be at the table with the city, and we would love to take this opportunity to be included. Mr. Biessel said we're looking at 10-15million for this replacement facility. Mr. Young added the parking lot never fills up at the current Millet. Mr. Biessel stated the primary concern is the arena, but he's thinking of the bigger opportunities and collaborations that will come from a facility of this caliber. Ms. French said she's also looking at who in the city department would be an integral part of this connection also, such as Seth Copenbaker.

1. Parks and Recreation Administrative Report

Mr. Smith advised the TRI said they would match the city's \$50,000, with their \$50,000 going toward a new master plan. Mr. Smith stated we want to do master planning for the park system as a whole but the focus will be the TRI property.

Adding, pending budget approval on November 18, he will then put this RFP out there to get some submittals.

Mr. Smith thinks the Recreation Board and the TRI Board would be great options to help choose the best submission to do the master plan. Mr. Biessel thinks that is a good choice to bring these two entities together and make that decision. Mr. Smith noted the Recreation Board missed a meeting in October so we didn't get to discuss or pick a date for a joint meeting with the TRI. Moving forward, Mr. Smith will share with them when we're having a TRI board meeting and they can decide if they want to attend. Mr. Biessel asked has there been much change from last January's meeting or does the master plan slow that down. Mr. Smith stated no there hasn't been any changes for now and they still need to get that started for funding, so we're looking forward to that.

2. Rec Board Administrative Report

Ms. French advised the Oxford Bee Festival will be held on Saturday, April 18, from 1pm - 8pm.

Ms. French is in contact with USA race timing and working to get on his calendar. Adding she thinks they are all systems go there, but wants to think this year more ways to promote the race and one is put up yard signs with a QR code to register. Also, look into getting our own yard signs and putting them out earlier. Ms. French stated this should be the last year of the 5k and have the 10K next year, and it will be a 1/2 marathon. Ms. French noted she is also the official / unofficial race coordinator. Ms. French stated she would like to speak with the city about getting connections for the future, and would do Leonard Howell again this year but would like to use Yeager next year.

Ms. French would like to have opportunities at the queen bee or flying pig expo to advertise at those locations for our event. Mr. Smith agreed and said he would like to see the oats and honey race expanded.

Ms. French noted Jessica Greene spoke to Brian Revere about the June teeth celebration, adding we are not involved with the event.

Mr. Smith advised the next meeting would be held Monday, December 8th at noon.

Adjournment

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

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

AYE # 3

NAY # 0

ABS # 0



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 a thin noting it turned out great. He made it into the dewit 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