



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

