



OXFORD RECREATION BOARD WITH TRI BOARD AGENDA:

February 9, 2026

LaRosa's Pizzeria, Meeting Room 21 Lynn Street, Oxford, Ohio 45056

12:30 PM

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

1. Approval of the Agenda for February 9, 2026, Oxford Recreation Board

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of Minutes from the January 12, 2026, Meeting of the Oxford Recreation Board

Public Comment

Old Business

1. Capital Project Update
2. Parks Master Plan Selection Update

New Business

1. Oxford Recreation Board Rules of Order Update

Report

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

Adjournment



MINUTES
OXFORD RECREATION BOARD
MUNICIPAL BUILDING 15 S.COLLEGE AVE. OXFORD, OHIO 45056
SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026 AT 12:00 PM

Call to Order

The Oxford Recreation Board was called to order by Mr. Smith on Monday, January 12, 2026 at 12:10pm.

Roll Call

Members in attendance were: Adam Biessel: Sarah Meaney; Roxanne Ornelas and Jacob Young.

Members absent were: Jason Merz and Jake Richardson

Staff members present were: Chad Smith and Deanna Barbour

Approval of Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda for the January 12, 2026 Oxford Recreation Board Meeting

Motion to Approve

(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Ornelas 2nd Mr. Young

AYE # 4

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Approval of Minutes

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

Motion to Approve

(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Ornelas 2nd Ms. Meaney

AYE # 4

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Public Comment

Mr. Smith opened the floor for public comment. No comment

Old Business

1. Parks Master Plan RFP

Mr. Smith advised the Parks and master plan RFP is still live and closes on Thursday, January 15th. Mr. Smith stated he's not received any submittals yet, but that is not surprising. Generally, those submittals come the day it's due. I can tell when people have downloaded the materials because we're using a 3rd party software called revise that sends me notifications when the material is downloaded, which has been around 30–40 times.

Mr. Smith said that is good news, and we can see that it's reaching people. Mr. Smith stated he's had one firm reach out with some questions, and he did a virtual meeting with them. Then, to be fair and consistent, he published the meeting notes on the same site where the RFP is, so then everyone has the same information.

Mr. Smith said this is basically a traditional master plan for the entire park system, but with the focus on the TRI, which is the feasibility study component that we want. Mr. Smith added, hopefully, that paper will be helpful to others. Ms. Ornelas asked, so your notes from the virtual meeting are on that site? Mr. Smith said yes, if you go to the City of Oxford website and click on RFP, it will bring up the bid documents that include that additional information. Mr. Smith added he's hoping to get more bids by this Thursday.

Mr. Smith stated the next steps will be the selection process and the TRI Board will be heavily involved in the selection process, having partly funded the plan, along with the City. Oxford will also be involved, myself included. Mr. Young asked, Do we have a deadline for selection? Mr. Smith advised that we want bids submitted by January 15th, then reviewed by the end of January and wants to be under contract in early February.

Mr. Biessel asked what the timeline will look like after that or does that depend on the RFP and whether everybody will have their own? Mr. Smith stated sure it will vary a little bit, as each team will have a different process, but generally, these things take 8–10 months. They'll be with us for the bulk of 2026. There may be times he'll extend an invitation to the board to meet with the group chosen along with planning vision and/or community meetings to give the opportunity for input as well. Mr. Biessel said maybe a realistic goal might be to have a plan by the end of 2026. Mr. Smith said that is the game plan.

Ms. Ornelas stated this is very exciting and is looking forward to it. Mr. Smith added that this will give us a road map on the best path forward for the Parks and Recreation Department and the TRI specifically for the future. It will give us the opportunity to go out and find appropriate funding based on what our needs are.

Ms. Ornelas asked were some of those companies you spoke of from the conference you attended going to be submitting a bid? Mr. Smith said those were design build skate park companies. However, the skate park is a component of what we're going to be looking at and talking about.

Mr. Smith advised more to come on the master plan once someone gets under contract.

New Business

1. Nomination of Recreation Board Officers

Mr. Smith announced the nominations of Recreation Board Officers.

Chair

Mr. Biessel nominated Jacob Young for the position of Chair for the Recreation Board. Ms. Ornelas second.

AYE #4

NAY #0

ABS #0

Secretary

Mr. Biessel nominated Deanna Barbour for the position of Secretary to the Recreation Board. Ms. Ornelas second.

AYE #4

NAY #0

ABS #0

Mr. Smith asked the Recreation Board to vote if they would like to keep the current meeting date and time set as the second Monday of the month at 12 noon for 2026.

Members voted to change the meeting time to 12:30pm.

1st Ms. Ornelas, 2nd Ms. Meaney

AYE #4

NAY #0

ABS #)

Mr. Smith stated our Recreation Board currently has six board members with various term dates. Currently we have a member that has not been able to be present for a while, so the question is, do we continue as is or try to fill that spot temporarily until that term officially ends. Mr. Biessel said he thinks we could use an interim person from Talawanda to cover that position until the issue is resolved. Mr. Young said contact Talawanda and see what they say. Mr. Smith stated it would behoove us to nominate an interim person from Talawanda school district, not only for participation but also to meet quorum requirements. Mr. Biessel recommended Holli Hansel as an interim person to fill in until a conclusion is reached. Mr. Smith advised he liked that idea and will look into the legality of how we make an interim or nomination for a situation like this. Ms. Ornelas noted the importance of transparency and for us to stay on top of that issue. It was something she heard a lot during her campaign, so she is particularly sensitive to that issue.

Mr. Smith advised that effective Monday, February 9th, the Recreation Board will meet at 12:30pm and we will look into a nomination process for more applicants.

2. February Joint Meeting with TRI Board Discussion

Mr. Smith stated he knew historically, every January the Recreation Board would have a joint meeting with the TRI Board (a private nonprofit group) and it is a great tradition we've done in the past. The TRI Board typically meets with the Recreation Board to network and to talk about shared initiatives. We were unable to get the date set for January, so the question is, would this be something we'd like to do at the February meeting on 2/9, second Monday of the month? Mr. Biessel stated yes, in years past we met jointly at LaRosa's in their large meeting room. Mr. Young agreed, stating that one year we didn't book the room in time and had to meet in the smaller area in the front of the restaurant. Ms. Barbour advised the joint meeting would run for two hours. The first half hour would be for the TRI Board, then meet jointly for an hour in the middle and have lunch, then TRI Board members would leave, and the Recreation Board would meet for the last half hour.

Mr. Smith said that sounds good, adding it will be a public meeting, and put on the public portal so we may have a few visitors from the public, which is great.

Report

1. Parks and Recreation Administrative Report

Summer Camp

Mr. Smith advised we are making a change to the summer camp at Oxford Parks and Recreation. Historically, it's been called Camp POP! for ages 5 - 12 and ages 3-5 were called Little Poppers. What we've learned is these two camps will be better fitted if we move them both out to the Aquatic Center. Little Poppers used to live at the TRI Community Center year round after preschool ends in May. Moving both camps to the Aquatic center will allow ages 3-5 and grades Kindergarten - 6th grade to be at one location (easier on parents for drop off and pick up) but put in separate pods of age groups.

Camp POP! is now called OPRD Summer Camp. Each age group or pod will have their own name and divided into 3 age groups called, Rangers 3-7, Adventures 8-10 and Explorers 10 and up.

Mr. Biessel inquired did the additional covered area get built? Mr. Smith advised no, it did not. It will be a capital project we're looking at for the future. Mr. Smith stated the current pavilion inside the pool will now be used for our summer camp during camp hours. We used to give the pavilion to outside summer camps and only required them to pay entry fees, but this year we're giving it to our summer camp. Going forward, our own summer camp will benefit from this. Then any outside groups coming will pay entry fees to the center but will need to find an area for their group to be stationed. Mr. Smith added that's an example of what the master plan is all for, helping us see all the needs. Mr. Smith said Mr. Wooddell looked into adding another shelter a year or two ago, so it's definitely still in the plans and a master plan will help.

Mr. Smith stated another idea being looked at is there's only a little bit of green space inside the fence line at the Aquatic Center, but there's more open green space on the other side of the fence. The plan is to push that out and open up more space inside the fence for patrons to use, especially when there are larger groups. Mr. Biessel said he was so happy to hear that this was such a need! In peak times, congestion is a real thing. Mr. Smith added it will come down to funding. He did get an initial quote, and it was about \$10,000 for the additional fencing. Mr.

Smith advised that yes, it's a \$10,000 expense to move this back, but now we could potentially build another shelter and rent it out to a couple of groups over the summer, and then you make that money back. Mr. Smith said it may not happen this season, but in the near future, it's definitely in our plan to expand the fence and just give more open green spaces and then potentially more additions over there.

Ms. Ornelas stated she likes the revamping of the summer camp program but has one concern. What about the kids in the TRI park area? What kinds of programming would still be available there for kids in the neighborhood that may have transportation issues and families that would just like to walk there who are used to having that availability? Mr. Smith said the TRI facility will remain open and available to the public. They can utilize the playgrounds, the ball courts and everything that's there currently. Nothing would change except the parents would be dropping their kids off at the Aquatic Center instead of the TRI. Ms. Ornelas is concerned about program opportunities being reduced. Mr. Smith advised that the only people that could participate in programming at the preschool were those enrolled in summer camp, there's still going to be programs and events that the public will go to, but the summer camp was exclusive to those enrolled in summer camp. Ms. Ornelas is a little concerned about those who may have transportation needs. Mr. Smith said we don't have any registered summer camp families that are walkers. All kids are dropped off and picked up every day, so it would be the difference of maybe less than a mile drop off at the pool as opposed to the TRI. That is one change coming to the summer camps this summer.

OPRD Events

Mr. Smith advised for events in general — OPRD has had some historical events that are considered legacy events and those will remain. We're always going to have Freedom Fest and this year will be bigger since it's the country's 250-year anniversary of America. We'll always have Holiday Fest and Trick or Treat and things like that. We are planning our 2026 schedule as we speak so we're looking at trying some new things and also tweaking some of the old. We're not going to see huge drastic changes but will see things that are in line with Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Smith advised we are going to take more of an active role in other city events uptown, such as in the planning and implementing of some of the events like Bee Fest.

Ms. Meaney asked how is the bike path going? Mr. Smith stated phase 5 is going really well and is ahead of schedule, and will be open late summer. They've made it to the bridge so far, and the bridge will take longer to do. Ms. Meaney said she is really happy with the progress. Mr. Smith added that all signs point to them being ahead of schedule and sure there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony when it's done.

2. Recreation Board Member Administrative Reports

Mr. Biessel noted for the Miami report he advised the students are away for J-Term, so there is not a ton of change within higher education. However, the big one right now is what will happen at the end of February with the new arena. Mr. Biessel is a member of the campus planning committee and stated there are a few options on the table. He thinks the real conversation is around the short-term solution and what that will look like, meaning there may be the possibility of multiple satellites and does that remain a permanent solution for recreation? Or is the ultimate goal to consolidate and have one major recreation facility in the long term. Mr. Biessel thinks

that's still the goal, but those come with considerable costs. And so it does bring up the short-term possibility of reinvigorating the chestnut field house, which is largely unused. So that would probably be a conversation between the city and Miami.

Ms. Ornelas noted she is aware of multiple surveys that have been done within our community that have indicated the population is not really happy with the potential change happening. Adding she was based at Chandler hall when she was teaching and is aware of the use of that field by students on an ongoing basis. Playing Frisbee, soccer, whatever it is the complaint is the potential loss of green space along with traffic issues and the environmental impact and everything else that goes on with that type of project. Ms. Ornelas asked, based on the survey results that have come out, what is the pulse of that. Mr. Biessel advised he wears multiple hats, meaning he contributed some of his knowledge and helped author a portion of the survey. He's also a member of campus planning and fiscal priorities and works with the various folks within administration to work through those things you're talking about. Mr. Biessel stated he doesn't have specific answers but will say as someone who is quite skeptical sometimes of these things publicly, the university has done its due diligence and he feels very confident as both a faculty and community member that they are putting a ton of thought through all of those issues.

Mr. Young stated one of the sports teams using Millett are doing exceptionally well this year and I'm sure that the changing landscape of NIL and what smaller universities can't necessarily compete on a national scale. It's the ability to draw the athletes, and have the students be like, Wow, this is where they want to be. Mr. Biessel said he thinks the context has changed within higher ed and college is more about the experience for the students than the actual education nowadays than it used to be.

Ms. Ornelas said she gets it and understands. She's attended multiple football and basketball games over the years and one of the concerns in recent years is the steep decline in student participation. Ms. Ornelas stated It's not very high, and she's a little concerned as a citizen who lives here, and has also in some ways been involved with graduation events and seeing the calamity of traffic over at Millett, where it has more ability to traverse it, compared to say a quarter of Cook field, and it just seems problematic to me and that's what causes concern. Adding, it has nothing to do with the board or the planning or anything like that, it's from her own experience that causes concern. Mr. Biessel stated college athletics is a changing landscape, and he tends to agree and has had some conversations as well.

Mr. Smith noted a new facility would definitely help with marketing and also help with enrollment, adding new facilities can do that, and it's exciting to see. What good resources for particular sports can do for enrollment is very interesting. Mr. Smith noted Leonard Howell could be a potential temporary solution if not more and also wonders how parks and rec and some of our facilities can be used temporarily by Miami while they're trying to find green space.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn - Mr. Smith adjourned the meeting at 12:58pm.

(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Meaney 2nd Ms. Ornelas

AYE # 4

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

RESOLUTION NO. 7782

A RESOLUTION REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 6051 ADOPTED FEBRUARY 6, 2018, AND ADOPTING NEW RULES OF ORDER FOR THE OXFORD RECREATION BOARD.

WHEREAS, the Recreation Board Rules of Order were last updated in 2018 and adopted by City Council on February 6, 2018; and

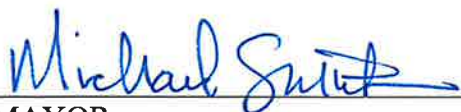
WHEREAS, City staff recently reviewed the Rules of Order and found some changes and updates were necessary to provide more accurate information to lead and guide the members of the Board, both present and future; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager and the Parks and Recreation Director recommend that City Council repeal Resolution No. 6051 adopted February 6, 2018 and adopt the new Rules of Order for the Oxford Recreation Board attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OXFORD, OHIO, HEREBY RESOLVES THAT:

SECTION 1: Council having reviewed the proposed Rules of Order for the Oxford Recreation Board hereby accepts the recommendation of the City Manager and the Parks and Recreation Director and repeals Resolution No. 6051 adopted February 6, 2018 and adopts the new Rules of Order for the Oxford Recreation Board attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

SECTION 2: This resolution shall take effect at the earliest date allowed by law.


MAYOR

ADOPTED: JANUARY 20, 2026

ATTEST:


CLERK OF OXFORD CITY COUNCIL
INTRODUCED BY: MICHAEL SMITH
PREPARED BY: LAW (STAFF)

**RULES OF ORDER
OF
THE OXFORD RECREATION BOARD**

ARTICLE I

SECTION 1 The name of this organization shall be the Oxford Recreation Board, as stipulated in the Charter of the City of Oxford, Ohio, Section 8.07.

ARTICLE II - MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

SECTION 1 There shall be four members appointed by City Council. Members shall be a resident of the city of Oxford or Oxford Township.. Appointments shall be made for a three year term of office. The Oxford Recreation Board shall recommend to Council future plans and development of playgrounds and recreational facilities and programs for the City.

SECTION 2 There shall also be one member from City Council appointed to the Recreation Board to serve a one-year term of office. This member will also be a voting member, in addition to the five regular members.

SECTION 3 In the event of the resignation of any board member, or his/her death, inability to service, or absence without acceptable reason from three regular consecutive meetings, City Council will appoint a member to finish any unexpired term that might remain.

ARTICLE III - OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

SECTION 1 At the first meeting of each calendar year, the Board shall elect one of its members as Chairperson. It shall be the duty of the Chairperson to preside at all meetings of the Board, and to perform such other duties as determined by the Board.

Updated 1/18/2018

SECTION 2 At the first meeting of each calendar year, the Board shall appoint a person to act as Secretary of the Board, who may be a City staff member and who may not be a member of the Board.

The secretary shall attend all meetings of the board and keep minutes of such meetings. He/she shall conduct such correspondence as the Board may direct. He/she shall be responsible for maintaining a file of the Board correspondence and business.

SECTION 3 In the event of the resignation or death of any board member , the Board shall elect a successor to complete any unexpired term after the appointment by City Council to fill the vacancy.

ARTICLE IV - PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR

SECTION 1 The Parks and Recreation Department shall be administered by a Parks and Recreation Director appointed by the City Manager, and The Parks and Recreation Director shall exercise supervision over all employees in the department as authorized by Council and the City Manager, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by ordinance or required by the City Manager.

SECTION 2 He/she shall have a seat on the Oxford Recreation Board and the right to speak on all matters before the Oxford Recreation Board, but shall not have the right to vote.

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

SECTION 1 The fiscal year shall begin on the first day of January.

SECTION 2 The stated meetings of the Board shall be held monthly, unless otherwise ordered by the Oxford Recreation Board.

SECTION 3 Special meetings of the Board may be held at any time or place at the call of the Chairperson or upon request by two members of the Oxford Recreation Board. -

SECTION 4 A quorum shall consist of a majority of the members of the Board.

SECTION 5 The order of business of the Board shall be as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Meeting Agenda
4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
5. Report of Parks and Recreation Director
6. Report of Recreation Board Members
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Adjournment

SECTION 6 All meetings shall be open to the public.

ARTICLE VI - COMMITTEES

SECTION 1 The Chairperson may appoint such committees, standing or special as may be authorized by the Board.

ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1 These Rules of Order may be altered, amended or repealed at any stated meeting of the Board by a majority vote of the entire Board with the approval of City Council.