



MINUTES
OXFORD RECREATION BOARD
MUNICIPAL BUILDING 15 SOUTH COLLEGE AVE. OXFORD, OHIO 45056,
SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2026 AT 12:30 PM

Roll Call

Call to Order

The Oxford Recreation Board was called to order by Mr. Smith on Monday, March 9, 2026 @ 12:06pm.

Members in attendance: Adam Biessel and Jacob Young.

Members Absent: Sarah Meaney; Roxanne Ornelas and Jake Richardson

Staff members present were: Chad Smith and Deanna Barbour

Approval of Agenda

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

Motion to Approve - No approval due to quorum not met.

(Voice Vote) 1st 2nd

AYE #

NAY #

ABS #

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the Minutes from February 9, 2026, Meeting of the Oxford Recreation Board

Motion to Approve - No approval due to quorum not met.

(Voice Vote) 1st 2nd

AYE #

NAY #

ABS #

Public Comment

No public comment.

Old Business

1. Oxford Recreation Board Rules of Order, 2026 scheduling

New Business

1. Spring Events 2026

Mr. Smith advised of the upcoming spring events. Noting there will be two dates for egg scrambles. The nighttime teen egg scramble will be held on Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 8:30pm, field 6 in the Oxford Community Park. The daytime egg scramble for ages 0 - 3rd grade will be held on Saturday, April 4th, 2026 at 11:00am on fields 2 & 3 in Oxford Community Park.

Mr. Smith stated the Oxford Bee Fest will be held on Saturday, April 18th, 2026 located uptown Oxford at main and high street. The Oats and Honey Race will be held that morning. Details to come.

Mr. Smith said April 24th is Arbor Day. On that day we also have our memorial tree ceremony that is held at Oxford Community Park at 12:00 noon. Our memorial trees are purchased by community members who want to honor a family member, friend or organization.

2. Project Updates

Mr. Smith advised the new playground equipment for the small playground between the ballfields at the Oxford Community Park has been delivered. He will be meeting with the contractor tomorrow and should have a new playground by the end of the month. Mr. Smith stated the design is really cool and thinks this will be a nice addition right before soccer and baseball kicks off.

Mr. Smith noted the pickle ball courts are due for a redo. Currently getting one other quote, there's \$60,000 in the budget, 50,000 in the City budget and 10,000 from the TRI. The court needs a whole new asphalt topping and will probably source the nets from a preferred vendor. Mr. Smith thinks we'll come in right on budget and would like to have new pickleball courts installed by May.

Mr. Smith stated Mr. Van Winkle (Sports Supervisor) is getting quotes for lights at the TRI. We're having looking at additional concrete pads for bleachers.

Mr. Smith said the Oxford Aquatic Center is in good shape. We need to get some deck work done and we've had 6 of the 8 pumps worked on and are ready to go for the season.

3. Master Planning Process Update

Mr. Smith announced we are officially under contract with Pros Consulting. Mr. Smith advised he's anticipating some meetings with designated groups and hopes to have some tighter dates as we get closer to the time.

Mr. Biessel noted there are groups at Miami that would be interested and would also look at inviting the boy scouts and girl scouts. Mr. Biessel said all those types of groups that need to use community rooms would be interested in giving feedback. Then you can see about getting funding to help with the cost for these groups to use these rooms for meeting space. Mr. Biessel added it may cost a few dollars more to put those additional rooms in there, but if you can get additional funding to provide these rooms, that would be a good way to go. Mr. Smith agreed, adding he's into various connections, not only scouting groups, but also senior center and other groups. Mr. Smith noted he was excited, adding that it's been a long time coming.

Report

1. Parks and Recreation Administrative Report

Mr. Smith advised that the state capital grant from the Ohio legislature has money they earmark for municipalities, such as for infrastructure, water and sewer. However, in lieu of not putting in a request for a new building, he put in a request for a synthetic athletic field at the Oxford Community Park. Mr. Smith stated at the Voice of America, Metro Parks, where he worked previously, had some synthetic athletic fields that were around \$850,000 a piece. So he put in a request for 1 million, adding the return on investment is that they are playable practically year round. Mr. Young agreed, saying we have one of the best parks around and thinks this will be a good addition. Mr. Smith noted our submittal is due in March and the state senate and local area vote on it, and then you know if you got it in June. Then you have a year till June 2027 to have it built and installed. Mr. Biessel thinks the area by the aquatic center would be the best place for it. Adding he had spoken to Mr. Wooddell, (previous Director) about getting lights on those fields as well. Mr. Biessel said previous quotes had been around 650,000 for lights.

Mr. Smith stated robot training is going on this morning at the OCP with Mr. VanWinkle, Sports Supervisor and Mr. Gagnon, Sports Coordinator and is going well.

Mr. Smith advised the Wild Ones Group has targeted a natural trail at the community park listing items that need attention. Items listed are the bridge needs attention; the natural area needs some mowing and some honey suckle needs to be removed to give it an update. This will assist in making the area more natural and a designated conservation area.

Mr. Smith said looking into trying to track grants a little closer. Mr. Young asked can you have a couple different items to be requested other than athletic field options, such as a shade structure at the Leonard Howell. Mr. Smith said yes, we do have an Oxford Community Foundation fund for the dog park and we can see where the fund is at and do the shade structure out of that. Mr. Smith added Duke Energy is also one he's worked with that has a rolling grant around \$5,000 that can be applied for.

Mr. Biessel said if awarded, using these smaller grants to meet smaller needs can sometimes

make a big difference. Mr. Smith agreed, saying and the master plan will really help us see these things better and then it's easier to articulate how this will benefit more people in the long run.

Mr. Smith noted some staff training has been completed. Mr. Carter Rasmussen is now a certified playground inspector. This is a really difficult certificate to get and he was able to get it the first time. This is a great benefit to our department.

Mr. Smith added we are also going to be a American Red Cross CPR training facility. Four of our staff will be trained to be CPR instructors, so they can recert themselves and new staff coming in each year. This will carry with them for life and they can be an instructor. Mr. Smith added that we are also coordinating with the Miami Rec. Center and will work with them to get our people certified at their indoor pool before our pool opens. Mr. Biessel asked if we could open on the Saturday before Memorial Day instead of Monday, on Memorial Day. Mr. Smith said at this time, with schedules set the way they are, he was unsure whether we could make that happen, but would check into it.

Mr. Biessel noted in the community where he grew up, one day a week, we had moonlight swims. Is that something we've thought about or could do in the future? Mr. Smith stated he heard we haven't done an evening event, other than private parties, since the new pool opened in 2019. However, it's something we've discussed possibly doing for the July 2nd event this year. It's definitely something he will discuss with Ms. Magner, (Pool Supervisor) and see if we can staff it. Could be an opportunity to maybe pilot it during the freedom festival and see how that would work. Mr. Smith advised the fireworks are scheduled, and the show is \$20,000 this year. Mr. Young asked did we go up, adding he always likes to see them go up. Mr. Smith said yes, this is America 250, and it's also going to be on Thursday, which is normally the uptown festival so we're going to have the band at the community park instead, so it's going to be a big show.

2. Recreation Board Member Administrative Reports

Mr. Biessel gave a Miami University update. The construction of the arena is going forward. The current plan is to split facilities into two areas. The conversation about one unit going in there, then temporarily putting fields in front of millet hall. They are still working on what everything will look like. All the information is public and is out there for people to see. Mr. Smith said we are definitely looking at working together with Miami during this time of construction.

Mr. Biessel noted he has some grad students that are looking for projects to do over the summer and if we need the manpower, we could have some students from the class that may be able to assist the consultant with this project. Mr. Smith said good information to have, adding we are currently hiring for summer staff and Ms. Magner and Mr. VanWinkle are set up in the Miami Handshake.

Mr. Smith advised that since we did not have a quorum for this meeting, this was considered a work session.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn - Mr. Smith adjourned the meeting at 1:13pm. Since there was no quorum, there was not vote.

(Voice Vote) 1st 2nd

AYE #

NAY #

ABS #