



MINUTES
OXFORD RECREATION BOARD
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 15 SOUTH COLLEGE AVE, OXFORD, OHIO 45056,
SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026 AT 12:30 PM

Roll Call

Call to Order

The Oxford Recreation Board was called to order by Mr. Smith on Monday, April 13, 2026 at 12:30pm.

Roll Call

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

Members absent were: none

Staff members present were: Chad Smith and Deanna Barbour

Approval of Agenda

1. Approval of the Agenda for April 13, 2026, Oxford Recreation Board Meeting

Motion to Approve

(Voice Vote) 1st Mr. Young 2nd Mr. Richardson

AYE # 5

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Approval of Minutes

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

Motion to Approve

(Voice Vote) 1st Mr. Richardson 2nd Mr. Biessel

AYE # 5

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

2. Approval of the Minutes from March 9, 2026, Meeting of the Oxford Recreation Board
*Quorum was not met at previous meetings for the approval of minutes

Motion to Approve

(Voice Vote) 1st Mr. Richardson 2nd Mr. Biessel

AYE # 5

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Public Comment

No public comment

Old Business

1. Parks Master Plan Process

Park Master Plan Process

Mr. Smith noted we are moving forward with the master plan. The working group consists of myself, Chad Smith, our City Manager, Doug Elliott Jessica Greene, Sam Perry and Seth Copenbaker. Mr. Smith stated several members from Pros Consulting, the master planning company will be in town April 22 & 23 to run the focus groups and discuss information for the master plan. Multiple sessions were scheduled on these dates to have more options for people to attend.

Mr. Smith noted invites went out to many groups and organizations, and more will be sent today as well. Ms. Meaney asked if she could send out the invite to others as well. Mr. Smith said yes, you can forward that to any group you think might be interested. Also, the public community meeting will be on April 22 in the TRI community center at 6:00pm, if you'd like to spread the word on that one as well.

Mr. Smith advised the focus group meetings will be held at the BCRTA community room at Chestnut Station. Mr. Smith added another component to the community engagement piece is there is a survey that was sent out randomly to Oxford community members and all those who participate in completing the survey will be in a raffle to win a gift card. The data collection firm is contractually obligated to get at least 250 responses. Then there will be a general survey that will go out after the meetings for anyone to complete. There will also be a project website they are creating which is very interactive where you'll also have the ability to enter information. Mr. Smith stated they are really covering their bases from a community engagement standpoint.

Ms. Ornales asked in terms of the meetings on April 22, between 6-7:30, is there a plan at this point to have more public meetings? Mr. Smith said yes, this is the kick off. Ms. Ornales said it would be good to have maybe 2 public meetings instead of just one, maybe week and weekend. Mr. Smith added its challenging to accommodate everyones schedule, but there will be subsequent meetings to get more feedback and there is also ways to input information online.

New Business

1. 2026 Park Project Updates

Mr. Smith advised that the new 2-5 yr-old playground will be installed and open to the public at the Oxford Community Park. It has replaced the old playground located between the ball fields. It still needs a sign, but it is officially open and is beautiful. Mr. Smith noted he's very happy about this project and that, of course, was a community development block grant that we got from the county commissioner, so it was good use of this one.

Mr. Smith stated we're looking at some bids for pool painting, \$19,000 is the cheapest bid to repaint the activity and lap pools. They've never been repainted since opening in 2019, so it's needed. However, with the timing, the paint is not going to work in the spring, so the painting will not be done until the fall. It's too tight of a window to get it done in the spring. The contractor agreed to do it in the fall, and we just have to get through the season without the new paint. Mr. Smith noted staff will do some touchup painting and caulk some seams to do a freshen up before opening for the season. Ms. Meaney noted there are some rust areas that need painting because it does look bad. Mr. Smith said some of those items will get cleaned up incrementally, adding there is a community foundation fund that is there specifically for aquatic center improvements that is around \$5,000, so we were may be able to get some of these items squared away.

Mr. Smith advised TRI playground is in need of mulch. Mr. Rasmussen arranged to have some Miami student fraternities volunteer to add some very specific mulch to the playgrounds at the TRI. This is a small project but it is a very important project. Mr. Rasmussen, our program coordinator, now has his playground safety inspector certification, and believe it or not, it's a notoriously hard certification to pass and to his credit, he passed with flying colors. Having this certification really helps us make sure our playgrounds are professionally inspected, and he does this on a monthly basis.

Mr. Smith stated as you know we're getting a restroom uptown, and it is underway and is making real progress. Mr. Smith added so with all this positive momentum going on uptown, it dawned on some of us that the poured-in-place surface the animal statues are on is in pretty bad shape. That surface is probably the original surface and that stuff is pretty expensive, but we were able to get a bid for under \$12,000, which was the lowest of four bids. Mr. Young asked if there would be a different surface added to where the fountain is due to slippage. Mr. Richardson thinks that since they aren't falling from a distance, you don't have to have special surfacing. Mr. Smith added it's not considered a fall zone like around the animals.

Mr. Smith noted another project we have underway is the pickle ball expansion at the TRI. We're under contract with the asphalt, but waiting on a date. They were the cheapest of four bids, but they are super busy and this is a small project for them, so we're looking at them starting in May. We have a separate contractor for the color coding, the sleeves and the pull of the nets, so that's an expensive project, but we managed to get it in under budget. We will be rolling with that in the next couple of weeks and then, after they pave, it will have to cure for like four weeks. We also have a fence contractor that will repair and replace the fencing once the surface is done. In total, we would love to have done it by late June. Mr. Smith stated that would still be great because the demand there is unbelievable. If any of you have driven by the TRI in the mornings, there's like literally lines of people waiting for a court, and we have 6 usable courts currently. We

have reservations coming in every day, and that is available due to demand. However, we also still have free open play for the public as well.

Mr. Biessel inquired is there a discussion of having a pickle ball league at OPRD. Mr. Smith said he's in discussion with Mr. VanWinkle, Sports Supervisor, about this, especially after the pickle ball courts are complete.

Ms. Ornales asked is there an online reservation system for the pickleball courts. Ms. Smith says yes, we have a third party reservation system called RecDesk. It's adequate, not the best, but current improvements are in the works.

Mr. Smith stated one last update is that we're getting closer to having all events applied for in the city to go through our department. Meaning "Event Permits" (formally Right of Way permits) will now be handled through RecDesk. This keeps those special event requests like 5k runs, uptown park reservations etc. separate from construction right of ways. All the construction projects, utility work, companies changing phone lines, etc. will still go through John Buckholz uptown. Mr. Smith advised that we will also be hiring 2 positions called event tech's that will only work the events reserved and there will be a fee attached if the person reserving the event adds this to their request, just like when you request to have an officer at your event or the scale of your event requires an officer, there is a fee attached. So we'll do that same model, so it's fairly inexpensive process. Mr. Smith said city service staff will still be doing road closures, barricades, trash pick-up etc. The new event tech will only be a point of contact during the event.

2. 2026 Events Update

Mr. Smith announced Bee Fest will be held this Saturday, April 18th, looking for good weather for another great year. Mr. Smith noted he and Ms. Magner, Aquatics and Programs Supervisor, have been in the planning process with others in the city, and it's all looking great. The Oats and Honey 5k / 10k has 104 people registered, which is showing some growth in the numbers.

Mr. Smith said another event OPRD runs is the memorial tree ceremony and Arbor Day event. The memorial tree event will be held on Friday, April 24th at noon at the Oxford community park by the flag pole. All Recreation Board members are invited and, of course, Mayor Smith will be there to say a few words along with a handful of families and friends that have purchased a memorial tree over the last year for a loved one. They will be recognized and have the opportunity to speak at the ceremony and the person or place recognized also gets a bronze plaque with their name or organization listed on it.

Mr. Smith advised we're also getting close to Freedom Fest planning time. Getting ready for the event to be held on July 2nd this year. Thinks from a staffing situation, this will be an easier process. Enjoy Oxford is supplying the band, since the event is being held on Thursday, it fits in with their music festival nights. The band will only now be at the Oxford community park instead of uptown. Enjoy Oxford has a band called My Brothers Keeper scheduled to play July 2nd. Mr. Smith noted Gillmans Hardware is also partnering with us and giving us a 16ft x 6ft flat bed trailer truck for the band to play on. So excited to see that and a big thank you to Enjoy Oxford for helping us with that.

Mr. Smith, we will be opening the pool on Monday, Memorial Day. I thought there was time and that we could possibly squeeze in and open it on the Saturday before, but will leave that as a goal for next year. We have so many new lifeguards that we need that weekend to get them trained.

We have partnered with Miami Rec Center for lifeguard certifications, and we are having an in-service day with them.

Report

1. Parks and Recreation Administrative Report

2. Recreation Board Member Administrative Reports

Ms. Ornales said she was thinking that online, on the city website, we could put the designation of Mr. Young as chair of the Recreation Board, adding she asked Ms. Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council, to add him to the site. So she may have already done it. Mr. Smith said yes, absolutely.

Mr. Biessel said the only update is the difference in the kids this year. It's unlike any semester I have ever had really. There seems to be a running theme and something different has happened. Kids are just not coming to class, like at all, they've just mentally checked out all across the board. Other colleagues are having the same issue with no engagement. It's not post-COVID-19 stuff, because after COVID-19 everything went back to normal, this is something different, and we're all searching for answers.

As for the new facility, Mr. Biessel is on the fiscal priorities planning and athletic policy council so he knows where they are at with their timeline and budget. Mr. Young asked what their break ground date was? Mr. Biessel said asap, they have to do underground maintenance and electricity first, then as soon as the students leave, they're going to put fencing up on cook field. If you look at the plans, the facility is only going to take up about a quarter of cook field, maybe 2.

Mr. Smith noted he would love to partner with Miami when the need arises.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn -

(Voice Vote) 1st Mr. Richardson 2nd Ms. Meaney

AYE # 5

NAY # 0

ABS # 0