

**CITY OF VANDALIA
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

January 15, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lenny Maenza, Corey Follick, Lydia Baker, Tara Landis

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Rick Scherer, Larry Taylor, Rodney Washburn

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Clark, Rudy Wells, Alicia McCracken, John Myers, Joe Dranschak, Al Tuttle

- Chairperson Lenny Maenza called the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to order at 6:30 p.m.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- Lenny suggested postponing the election of officers until the February meeting due to three members not being present. There was no disagreement from members in attendance.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- The minutes of the November 20, 2019 meeting were presented to the board. Tara Landis motioned to accept the minutes as presented and Lenny Maenza seconded the motion. Motion carried all ayes.

COMMENTS FROM INTEREST CITIZENS

- None.

PARK MAINTENANCE REPORT

Rudy Wells presented the Park Maintenance Report.

- 2019 Holiday display – tree decorating, lighting event, removal.
- Sports complex fence project work: 1,2,3 and 9 outfield fence removal. Install including foul poles and topper. A section of heaved fence along the east property and fence damage on field 7 and 10 were repaired. Breaker attachment on Bobcat used to break concrete from posts for recycling.
- Four new swings and hardware installed at Helke Park on existing structure. Two are age specific molded bucket seats and two are belt seats. Sand Diggers (3) and balance beam replaced at Helke sand play area.
- Cleaning of some exterior/ interior window glass: MB and VRC.
- Plumbing issues: faucets and drains and small copper pipe on main circulation pump (VRC).
- Aerifying of turf areas. VRC will be completed after tree is removed.
- MVRMA training on back, safety, slips, trips and falls, ladder safety, hazard communication and personal protective equipment were covered.
- Completed the installation of the four outdoor musical instruments at the Art Park. DP&L is in the process of completing the power connection.
- Some snow control as needed was completed in 2019.

- Bucket truck was used to replace some bulbs/ballasts as needed at the JC and FS1. Two exterior light fixtures were replaced on the golf course cart barn.
- Pathway improvements continue at the sports complex to improve rainwater drainage away from the pathways. Pathway puddle reduction.
 - Lenny inquired about the pathway work and if the work has reduced standing water. Rudy indicated the work has been very successful thus far and staff is addressing a few areas in which more work is needed to keep the water off the pathway.

CITY TREE REPORT

Rudy Wells presented the City Tree Report.

- Leaf and plant material fall/ winter clean up continue in landscape beds and turf areas. We also worked in the disc golf area on down trees and limbs and placement of tee / hole description markers as needed.
- Three trees were replaced on National road.
- On average we are removing trash from the roadway landscape beds at least weekly, more often as needed.
- We have had a few trees damaged by high wind and have or will be cleaning that damage up. Bent a stop sign at the Sports Complex.
- Lenny commented the downtown area looked really nice during the holiday season.

BEE CITY REPORT

Joe Dranschak presented the Bee City Report.

- Joe informed the board they are working on the annual report that is due to the National Association in February.

RECREATION REPORT

Alicia McCracken presented the Recreation Report.

- Aaron attended the coffee social with the Chamber of Commerce on Friday, December 6 in an effort to build and strengthen relationships with community leaders.
- On Tuesday, December 17th, Aaron attended the Art Committee Meeting at the City Building. Conversations included the progress of the Art Park projects and other art preparations for the new year.

Recent Events

- Our Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony & Holiday Market went over very well! There were many smiling faces and Aaron was able to get advice from vendors, volunteers and participants about what tweaks I should make for the following years. We plan to continue with the same event in 2020.
- On Friday, December 20th we had December Homeschool Takeover.
- On Friday, December 20th, we had our Glow Candy Cane Hunt at the VRC. We hit our max for our class of 20 kids for the program. During the program, kids were able to decorate their bag, went outside looking for candy canes and candy, and enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies after the hunt. About 15-20 showed up on the day of the program

to register for the program. Unfortunately, we had to turn them away because we were at our max and only bought enough supplies for the 20 kids. Next year, we are considering increasing the maximum for the class since it was so popular.

- Winter CampREC went over well. Each week, we had about 20-25 kids attend and were able to enjoy everything that the Rec Center has to offer! We didn't have any complaints for camp.
- The Christmas Tree Throw Off was a little disappointing, but also understandable. We had 6 people come out to throw trees, all coming from the adult category. The weather was disgusting, so it's understandable that people don't want to leave the house. But, all the participants who came out did truly enjoy themselves! We are evaluating ways to increase attendance next year. The other option is to not off the event in 2020.
- We had our first Essential Oil Class on Monday, January 6th. We had 4 participants come out to learn about essential oils and winter hacks to survive sickness and other symptoms during the winter time.
- Our Strollers in Motion instructor is moving to New York, so we will have to cancel the program here at the Vandalia Recreation Center. The class was popular during the warmer, outdoor months, but tapered off once it began to get cold.
- Zoom Around the Room each Friday still pulls a good amount of kids.

Upcoming Events:

- Our Kids Home Alone class is happening on Saturday, February 1st from 9am – 1pm . We offer this class once every season and every time we run this program, its sells out and has a waitlist. The Vandalia Fire Department does an excellent job teaching the kids about safety when home alone, ranging from kitchen safety, emergency situations, and even internet safety. This upcoming class, a representative from the Vandalia Police Department will also be at the program to help teach kids about home alone safety.
- Aaron is currently interviewing people for camp counselor positions for the summer of 2020! We had a great summer last year; kids had a blast going on field trips, climbing the rock wall, playing outdoor games, swimming at our Aquatics Center/Cassel Hills and much more! We earned about \$44,000 in revenue as well. Applicants have until Friday, March 13 to apply.
- Our Healthy Hands Cooking (HHC) Classes have been very popular recently! These classes focus on how people can gain more confidence in the kitchen, introduces people to new ideas (switching things up from your typical meal each day), and teaches people that healthy food can be tasty and satisfying! The max participants for each class is 10; this way the instructor is able to give everyone a great amount of attention and so that we do not have too many chefs in the kitchen! We have a Healthy Baking class for kids that sold out, so we decided to make another Healthy Baking class, which is almost sold out too! Our Adult Mediterranean class is almost sold out as well! Our instructor does a great job explaining the benefits of all the healthy ingredients to the participants and the recipes she has are always delicious.

ATHLETICS REPORT

John Myers presented the Athletics Report.

- Vandalia Butler Optimist Basketball Leagues are underway for grades 2 through 6. We played the first two Saturdays in December and picked back up January 11th after the

Vandalia Schools got back from break. We have 144 participants this year in the Optimist Leagues.

- Special thank you to the Butler Boys basketball teams for helping instruct the K/1st instructional league! They will be sending a different team each week ranging from the 7th grade team up through the Varsity level. I think that is a neat way for the kids to see the different levels of basketball they could potential play at in the future.
- Fall Coed Volleyball has concluded. We had 6 teams participate in this year’s fall league. The league went very smoothly, and we had a great group of teams that came out and competed each week. We had several teams from the fall league join the winter league so we are happy they have returned for another season!
- Winter Volleyball began on January 9th & 10th. The Upper League plays on Thursdays and has 6 teams. The Lower League plays on Fridays and has 5 teams for a total of 11 teams this winter. Darrin Frizell will continue to referee games, and John Ross will continue to supervise those leagues. They both do a phenomenal job with those leagues.
- John has contracted two new adult volleyball referees. Rachel Wimsatt and Kaleigh Trevino. They are both Butler grads, and still live in the area. They coached one of the middle school girls’ volleyball teams and I am excited to get them on board!!
- Preparations for baseball/softball season have begun.
 - a. John is exploring the option of making picture day one week prior to opening day. We did an unintentional test run of this during soccer season, and John got a lot of positive feedback from parents and the picture company. They liked not having to worry about rushing to get to a game.
- Spring athletic signups are underway. Notably: Baseball/Softball and Adult Softball leagues. John will be sending fliers to the schools letting them know of registrations.
- We are working on increasing sponsorships for youth athletics. We have had many notable sponsors from this past year. Their support is greatly appreciated and the assistance that they give to this program and those athletes is immeasurable.

Full Year Sponsors

Beau Townsend Ford/Nissan	Beckstrom Orthodontics	Christy’s Family Pizzeria
Cooper’ Blacktop	The Expediting Co.	Heeter Plumbing LLC
Sister Cities of Vandalia	State Farm – Steve Reed	Vandalia Lions Club
Vandalia-Butler Optimist Club		

Seasonal Sponsors

A to Z Asphalt	Adams Robinson Construction	At Home Construction & Services
Baker-Hazel & Snider	Funeral Home and Crematory	Beau Townsend Ford/Nisan
Blue Tooth Dental	Neely Dental Team	Speiles Insurance
Vandalia Firefighters	Vandalia Rental	Warehouse 4 Coffee

John’s goal is to have a sponsor for each team for this upcoming year. He hopes to accomplish this goal by giving those sponsors more recognition. One example is creating a ‘Sponsors’ page on our website that would link directly from our website to the sponsors page. Any other ideas on how we can accomplish that would be greatly appreciated.

- Corey Follick recommended putting info on sponsorship opportunities in the Business at the Crossroads Newsletter. Staff to follow up on this with Amber Holloway.
- We will be looking for youth officials and concessionaires for this upcoming season. If you or anyone you know is looking for a summer job or is interested in becoming involved in the athletics department, send them my way!

RECREATION CENTER REPORT

Alicia McCracken presented the Recreation Center Report.

- Front Desk staff has been super busy with the renewal of insurance-based memberships at the beginning of the year.
- The VRC continues to experience a lifeguard shortage. Pay increase has helped some recruitment efforts. We have entered into a one month agreement with Dayton Pool Management to provide supplemental staffing until we can discuss options for the future with City Council at the February 3 Study Session..
 - Alicia explained how the short term agreement with Dayton Pool Management will work.
 - Steve explained what information staff is compiling to present to Council at the Study Session.
 - Brief discussion followed.
- We were delivered new cardio equipment last week. 2 new treadmills and a Nu-Step.
- Maddison Blackwell has been named the Interim Aquatics Manager.
- Premier Health Smart Goals Presentation- Monday 1/13. 11 people attended.
- Sarah Lavy has returned to work after being on maternity leave. Her and baby are doing well!
- Leslie McDermitt was hired, and she is now teaching three classes/week! We have also welcomed back HighFitness instructor Jillian Kovacs who is teaching her popular class on Thursday evenings at 6:30pm.
- Sarah is in the process of hiring additional climbing wall staff to try and keep up with the demand of wall rentals coming up over the next few months.
- The Holiday Special of 17% off paid in full memberships and \$50 gift card purchases begins ended on 1/5. We were extremely busy with this offer, numbers to come!
- Christmas Eve classes we offered for FREE thanks to Beau Townsend and we had great feedback from patrons!

SENIOR CENTER REPORT

Alicia McCracken presented the Senior Center Report.

- The new Van Tran vehicle is in operation and drivers and riders are extremely appreciative. Thanks to the folks at Beau Townsend for educating Toni and Jeff on the modern functions of the vehicle! (Lanny Blackburn took pride in being the first rider in the new van)
- On January 1st Toni's position became full-time. The full-time status does not affect her hourly wage, only her paid time off.

- Toni's February newsletter is once again packed with activities. You can view each month's newsletter on the City's web site.

CASSEL HILLS POOL REPORT

Alicia McCracken presented the Cassel Hills Pool Report.

- Nothing new to report at this time.
- Steve informed the board that as part of the February 3 Council Study Session presentation we will be seeking input on the Cassel Hills Pool season and whether to follow the school schedule or stay with our Memorial Day to Labor Day format.

OLD BUSINESS

- There was no Old Business presented.

NEW BUSINESS

- Joe Dranschak informed the board that Smith School is planning a 50 year celebration that will take place in March.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Corey Follick made a motion to adjourn and Tara Landis seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m..

Lenny Maenza, Chairperson

Rick Scherer, Secretary