

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

**February 17, 2021**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lenny Maenza, Larry Taylor, Tara Landis, Corey Follick, Rick Scherer, Lydia Baker

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Rodney Washburn

**OTHERS PRESENT:** City Manager Dan Wendt, Steve Clark, Jeff Kreill, Joe Dranschak

- Chairperson Lenny Maenza called the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to order at 6:32 p.m. Lenny welcomed new City Manager Dan Wendt to the meeting and to the City of Vandalia. Introductions followed.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- Chairperson Lenny Maenza opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chairperson. Lydia Baker nominated Tara Landis. Tara Landis nominated Lydia Baker. After discussion and prior to a formal vote the group decided to name Tara the Chairperson and Lydia the Vice Chairperson for 2021. All members voted in the affirmative on the slate of officers for 2021.

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

- The minutes of the November 18, 2020 meeting were presented to the board. Lenny Maenza motioned to accept the minutes as presented and Larry Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried all ayes.

**COMMENTS FROM INTEREST CITIZENS**

- None.

**FACILITIES SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Steve Clark presented the Facilities Superintendent Report.

- Currently working on 2021 capital projects:
  - Clubhouse roof replacement – currently obtaining quotes with the prospect of completing the clubhouse, cart storage garage and maintenance to the metal roof on the golf course maintenance building within the scope of this project.
  - Garage fuel tanks – replacement of the gasoline and diesel fuel tanks. Both are original to the garage (30 years), preventive maintenance over the years extended their service life. Currently have an RFP out for bid. Our operations require onsite fueling for us to provide efficient service to the City.
  - Helke pickle ball and tennis courts – court maintenance. Due to the age of these surfaces and climatic effects on these surfaces routine maintenance is required. We are working with our certified contractor for repairs to these surfaces. Weather conditions greatly affect the time frame when court surfaces can be properly repaired. Ground water table, an issue at this park can negatively affect repairs on these surfaces. Depending on weather conditions mid to late summer will most likely provide the best conditions for favorable results.

- Asphalt maintenance RFP prep is underway for selected areas at the sports complex. This will include areas of the main drive, parking and walkways in the worst condition at this time. This work will be coordinated to minimize patron impact during the project.
- Recreation center roof maintenance – quotes are being obtained to complete some work that will aid in extending the flat roofs service life.
- Usual winter maintenance continues – maintenance to spring, summer and winter maintenance equipment. Preventative maintenance at our buildings. Much time has been needed for snow and ice control in the recent weeks.
  - Council Member Follick commented that a post on the All Things Vandalia Facebook page concerning the Sports Complex pathway contained positive comments about our staff clearing the snow from the pathway.

### **CITY TREE REPORT**

Steve Clark presented the Urban Forest Report.

- We recently received confirmation from Tree City USA that we have again been approved for Tree City USA status.
- Commemorative tree donation plaque options are now being offered to those purchasing commemorative trees.
- Winter tree and landscape plan – continue to clear late season perennial removals including ornamental grasses and sedums. Tree stump removals at various locations. Pruning of deadwood from Austrian and scotch pines at the sports complex (diplodia fungal dieback) and structural pruning at other locations including minor work on the street trees along National and Dixie. Weather dependent as deep snow will prevent most of this work.
- Landscape repairs to median # 10 (just north of 1-70 overpass). Reported in January that three trees, etc. were removed due to a vehicle strike. One of these trees was recently hit and will be replaced this spring.
- We built a chip box for one of our dump trucks a few years ago. The box helps us be much more efficient when using our brush chipper. Our mechanic is working on some engine and wiring issues. We hope to have this truck back in service soon.
- Fall is the ideal time for planting of many trees for many reasons. We will plan on planting as many as 15 trees this fall. If you have any thoughts on where you would like to see some additional trees in our parks and if you have a particular tree type or species you would like to see planted we would like to know. We will plan to order trees for fall digging in late August/ September

### **BEE CITY REPORT**

Joe Dranschak presented the Bee City Report

- Currently working with Missy Pruszynski of the City Manager's Office on submitting the annual renewal application to Bee City.
- Also working on the annual report that is required by Bee City. Will share with Rudy when completed for his input and then to Missy for her review.
- 2020 was a fairly busy year for the Bee City committee. The group worked on the grounds of the Historical Society tilling and planting two rows of bee friendly pollinator plants. Located near the path to the Art Park.
- Resident Tom Hertlein planted sunflowers in a field on his property.

## RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Jeff Kreill presented the Recreation Superintendent Report.

### Recreation Report:

- Esports: League play in John's pilot program (12 teams) is complete and participants enjoyed playing. John plans to offer a one-day pilot tournament. Once complete, he plans to offer a program or tournament to the public in Mid to late March.
- Successfully run programs February 1-16:
  - Spreading the Community Love: We had 10 kids come out for this program. During this program, we will make letters to different groups in the city (Fire Department, Police Department, etc.) that will be all about love and appreciation.
  - Playful Picassos – Lil Valentines Party: We had 6 preschoolers participated, 1 away from the max. During this class, preschoolers made Valentine themed crafts and make a snack afterwards.
  - Kids Night Out: 21 participants
  - Preschool Cooking Class: We had 9 preschoolers come out, 1 away from the max.
  - Kids Cooking Class: We had 12 kids come out, which was the max.
  - Essential Oils Class: We had 2 adults come out and they learned all about Thieves Essential Oil.

### Athletic Report

- Basketball is going well. Officials are more available now that high school and middle school basketball is finishing up.
- Butler United reached out and asked permission to research ways to improve draining at Helke Park. We granted them permission with the understanding that we are not permitting any work to be done.
- We've been asked if an 11-year-old (5<sup>th</sup> grade) girl can play baseball instead of softball. (F-Major baseball instead B-Major softball). We typically have one or two teams for B Major softball each year. Jeff posed the question to the board concerning girls playing in the baseball program.
  - Corey Follick indicated there has been precedent set for this situation. Larry Taylor mentioned that he coached a girl on his baseball team.
  - Discussion followed concerning gender situations involving sports, locker rooms, restrooms, etc.

### Recreation Center

- VRC February Attendance

<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>TH</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Sun</b>
498	507	468	480	497	338	228
544	533	440	411	500	332	240
<b>306</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>445.5</b>	<b>498.5</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>234</b>

**449**

449    520    454    445.5    498.5 = **473 M-F average attendance**

- Senior Fitness Classes are doing quite well. 73% attendance in 2021 compared to 2020!
  - Group Fitness Classes are 60% attendance compared to 2020
- Domino's has agreed to extending our Agreement for another year
- April 8 will be the VRC's 20 Year Anniversary.
  - Staff is planning a celebration event with more info to come in the coming weeks.
  - Larry Taylor recommended inviting the Sucher Family.
- Senior Incentive winners (required to have 10 visits to be eligible to win). Each dedicated individual will receive a \$25.00 gift card to Kroger.
  - January:
    - Norman Burkhardt 31 visits
    - Marilyn Ekberg 20 visits
    - Robyn Wolf 17 visits
    - Dale Gessaman 15 visits
  - a. February
    - Jerry Kennard 28
    - Cassandra Easterly 12
    - Waltraut Longley 16
    - Angela Siefker 13

### Senior Center

- Recent attendance at the Senior Center: We average 25 visits per day.
- March Van Tran drivers: we only have 2 drivers able to volunteer in March. We are in the process of eliciting volunteer drivers.
  - Lydia Baker suggested using the All Things Vandalia Facebook page to promote the need for drivers.

### Cassel Hills Pool

- Steve Dent and Christy's is back in for the 2021 season!
- Joe Caplinger and the Piranhas are planning to have a 2021 season.
- Wright St. Graduate Students (Capstone Project).

## **DISCUSSION TOPICS**

- CHP Capstone Project
  - Steve Clark explained the purpose and process of the Cassel Hills Pool Survey being completed by three Wright State MBA Students.
  - Discussion took place concerning the distribution of the survey. Corey Follick recommended using an email list from past CHP members if possible.
- Focus 2020 Plan Recap
  - Jeff Kreill distributed a copy of the Vision 2020 Executive Summary and explained the document format. He also showed them the 19 page detailed

document concerning the status of items in the plan. He indicated that we would send it to them via email.

- Focus 2030 Plan
  - Jeff presented the idea to follow up the Vision 2020 Plan with a Vision 2030 plan.
  - City Manager Wendt mentioned the importance of having community involvement/support to give us the best chance of successfully fulfilling big picture items. Community forums, focus groups, etc. Discussion followed.
  - Board members were supportive of the City Manager's comments.
- Beverage Contract (Pepsi)
  - Time did not permit conversation concerning our Beverage Contract with Pepsi. Jeff indicated the March Newsletter will include information concerning the status of beverage services and that we can discuss in detail at the May meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- None.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Larry Taylor made a motion to adjourn and Rick Scherer seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m..

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Tara Landis, Chairperson

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Rick Scherer, Secretary