

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

February 19, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lenny Maenza, Corey Follick, Larry Taylor, Rodney Washburn

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Rick Scherer, Lydia Baker, Tara Landis

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Clark, Jeff Kreill, 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.
- Council Member Dave Lewis was in attendance to address the board. Dave wanted to share his appreciation to the board members for their dedication and service to the community and let them know he thoroughly enjoyed his time on the board. He indicated that he had been the Council Representative to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board on and off for over 20 years. Larry Taylor thanked Dave for his time and service to the board. Lenny Maenza also thanked Dave for his years of service to the community.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- Larry Taylor made a motion to keep the slate of officers the same for 2020 (Chairperson Lenny Maenza, Vice Chairperson Larry Taylor and Secretary Rick Scherer). Corey Follick seconded the motion. Motion carried all ayes.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- The minutes of the January 15, 2020 meeting were presented to the board. Larry Taylor motioned to accept the minutes as presented and Corey Follick seconded the motion. Motion carried all ayes.

COMMENTS FROM INTEREST CITIZENS

- None.

PARK MAINTENANCE REPORT

Steve Clark presented the Park Maintenance Report.

- Snow and Ice control requires time in equipment preparation, the event and then cleanup of the equipment in preparation for the next use.
- Areas of asphalt and concrete repair were completed prior to the poor weather at the sports complex, recreation center and municipal building. More work to continue this spring.
- Completed the removal of the Christmas tree and storing of decorations.
- Cleaned off and tilled the community garden plots.
- Refurbishing existing and constructing some new wood trash boxes. For us in the parks.
- Completed some exterior cleaning at the clubhouse- power washed the front entry area, and cleaned the wood and glass at the main entry.

- The new pool water boiler has been installed at Cassel Hills. It will be tested and ready for the season once we fill the pool and get the water balanced and ready to heat.
- Ordered and received some replacement play structure parts that we plan to put in place as weather permits.
- Took delivery of some ping pong tables and assembled and delivered to the recreation center.
- Preventative maintenance to our equipment used during spring, summer and fall- hand tools, mowers, tractors etc. This work is ongoing through the winter.

CITY TREE REPORT

Steve Clark presented the City Tree Report.

- Recycled approximately 130 Christmas trees including the 2019 City tree.
- Performed some structural pruning on some of our trees as weather conditions permit.
- Two of our staff were able to attend the Tri-State Green Industry Conference. They attended eight training different training sessions (each attended a different session that pertained to our areas of service). Sessions included The State of Trees, Butterfly Gardens/ Pollinators, Tree Health Management, Safety Review, Diversity in the Urban, Landscape and Calibration. Informational and knowledge gained was shared with additional staff in the days following.
- Three of our staff attended the Ohio Commercial Pesticide Applicator 2019 Recertification Conference. We have staff certified in Industrial Vegetation, General Pest, Turf and Ornamentals. The sessions are very informative and provide the latest information concerning the areas of certification. This certification and ongoing training help us to better understand and proceed with the opportunities we encounter in our attempt to be cost effective, responsible stewards in our areas service to the City. A total of 30 sessions were attended during the daylong event.

BEE CITY REPORT

Joe Dranschak presented the Bee City Report.

- Al and Joe are working with Missy Pruszynski on the annual report for Bee City USA.
- Al Tuttle is working with Recreation Manager Aaron Messenger to offer a Bee Class for youth at the VRC. More details to come at March meeting.
- Larry Taylor inquired how bees survive cold temperatures during the winter. Al Tuttle explained how they cluster to create warmth. Discussion followed.

RECREATION REPORT

Jeff Kreill presented the Recreation Report.

- Alicia, John, Aaron and Maddison attended the Ohio Parks & Recreation Association (OPRA) Conference February 9-12 in Sandusky. Each staff member attended numerous educational seminars associated with their department. Staff members were grateful for the opportunity.
- Alicia, Sharon, Aaron and Jen attended a RecTrac Users Group meeting in Upper Arlington, Ohio on Thursday, February 6. They were able to learn more about our

updated RecTrac software and ask questions to the RecTrac gurus to help optimize the software.

- Camp Rec Staff: Aaron continues to search for the best camp counselor candidates. Returners: We had 5 counselors that worked with us last year that want to come back to work this summer again. Since counselors are not guaranteed spots just because they worked a year of camp, they all had to go through a returner interview. Questions were based around how their overall camp experience was, what they would change, why we should rehire them, etc. 4 out of the 5 have completed their returner interview so far. New Applications: So far, we had 4 people submit applications to be a first-year camp counselor. Interviews are being scheduled. We will continue advertising the camp counselor position on social media, word of mouth, emails and up to Butler High School. Applicants have until Friday, March 13 to apply.
- Playful Picasso's: Happy Hearts class on Wednesday, February 5. We had 6 toddlers.
 - The kids were able to make a canvas for their mom's, make valentines cards, make a beaded bracelet/necklace and a chocolatey snack to wrap it up!
- February Kids Night Out on Friday, February 7. We had 24 kids attend.
 - Kids made valentines, swam, play games in the gym and climbed the wall!
- Free Essential Oils class on Monday, February 10. We originally had 10+ adults signed up for the class, but since the flu has been going on, we had 4 adults come out. Participants learned about what essential oils are, how they are beneficial, etc.
 - Future essential oil classes will be a 'make and take' and will be very inexpensive.
- Valentine's Day Celebration class on Thursday, February 13. We had 5 kids attend.
 - Kids made Valentines themed lava lamps, made valentines and made a tasty treat.
- Cooking classes:
 - 11 kids attended our Valentine's Day Cooking Party on Friday, February 14. Participants made heart healthy smoothies, fruit pizzas and yummy fruit kabobs.
 - 8 kids attend our second Valentine's Day Cooking Party on Saturday, February 15. Just like the class on Friday, kids made heart healthy smoothies, fruit pizzas and yummy fruit kabobs.
 - 12 preschoolers attended our Lil Sprouts Parent & Me Cooking Class on Saturday, February 15. The preschoolers learned all about strawberries and how they support the body and make you healthy.
 - We had 6 adults come out to our Adult Healthy Cooking Class on Tuesday, February 18. Adults made their own sushi rice, California rolls and spicy crab rolls.
- Cancelled: Prince & Princess Spa Day on Saturday, February 8. We only had 12 kids signed up and we need 25 to make the program worthwhile for the MVCTC students. The MVCTC Cosmetology students and teachers were bummed that we had to cancel. They would like to try the program again in the future.

ATHLETICS REPORT

Jeff Kreill presented the Athletics Report.

- Vandalia-Butler Optimist Basketball leagues are nearing the end of the season. The last week of regular season play will begin this weekend and then we will have 2 weeks of

tournaments. They will finish up on March 7th. The 5/6 Girls League will run a week longer for their tournament and finish March 14th.

- Lenny Maenza inquired how the drop in basketball program is doing. Jeff explained that since we made the adjustment to the open gym program that issues have decreased significantly. Placing a gym attendant in the gym to check patrons in and out has made the difference in cleaning up the issues. Discussion followed.
- Adult winter volleyball is going very well. John Ross is doing a great job with that league, along with our weekly referees, Darrin Frizell, Rachel Wimsatt, and Kaleigh Trevino. The last regular season games are scheduled for February 28th and following that will be one week of tournament play.
- Baseball/Softball and signups are picking up. March 18 is the team draw.
- John has had a few teams reach out to start reserving fields for practice and game dates. Those teams are all teams that he worked with last year.
- Thanks to Heeter Plumbing!! Heeter Plumbing decided to extend their Field 7 sponsorship for an additional 3 years. Heeter's contribution goes a long way in keeping fees low for participants.
 - Corey Follick inquired about status of team sponsorships and if John is making progress toward increasing the number of sponsors. Jeff explained that John continues to work toward increasing sponsorships and sent letters to local businesses and will begin contacting potential sponsors by phone. Discussion followed.
 - Corey asked if we had spoke to Amber Holloway about putting an article in the Business At The Crossroads Newsletter concerning sponsorships. Steve indicated that Amber has been contacted and is committed to putting something in the upcoming Newsletter.
 - Corey suggested staff attend Chamber of Commerce events (First Coffee, Business After Hours, etc.) to network with local businesses, which may create sponsorship opportunities.

RECREATION CENTER REPORT

Jeff Kreill presented the Recreation Center Report.

- A heartfelt THANK YOU & CONGRATULATION to our part-time employees that have been working in our department long enough to receive years of service recognition. These dedicated employees' names have been added to the Wall of Honor in the VRC lobby where our Distinguished Employees are recognized. In addition, each employee will receive a department shirt.
 - a. 10 Years of Service:**
 - i. Debra Campbell
 - ii. Diana Houck
 - b. 5 Years of Service:**
 - i. Andrew Wells
 - ii. Lawrence Clark III
 - iii. Micah Mullinix
 - iv. Emily Allgood
 - v. Sarah Hartley
 - vi. Blaine Payton

- vii. Robert Zebney
 - viii. Kyle Wertz
 - ix. Sally Slaton
 - x. Jalen Paige
 - xi. Toni Williams
- We completed and distributed the aquatic RFP to the only two aquatic management firms in our region on Tuesday, February 18. We are conducting a mandatory meeting with firms on Thursday, February 20 to answer any RFP questions and to tour the VRC and CHP. Proposals are due on Tuesday, February 25. We plan to be prepared to make a recommendation to council at the March 2 Study Session.
 - Larry Taylor asked what is different today from the past concerning getting Lifeguards. Discussion followed.
 - Thanks to Chad Garver for initiating a plan to assist with improved communication from the VRC to 911. Captain Garver worked with us and IT to provide a new portable emergency phone that is stationed at the VRC front desk. The phone will give staff the ability to be at the scene of VRC emergencies and to be able to give dispatch reliable and pertinent information. Better information to dispatch will ensure that emergency personnel will be better equipped to handle the emergency upon arrival.
 - LED lighting contractors were in these past few weeks working in the admin office areas to resolve the flickering problem. They continue to work with Rudy to finalize the project.
 - Our next Premier Health Talk will be Heart Disease 101 and will be on Thursday 2/27 from 9:30-10:30am. Thanks to Chad Baughman in DES for once again making flyers for the sandwich boards. Alicia is working with Premier Health to set up another speaker in May.
 - Free Climbing Wall Nights (every 3rd Tuesday).
 - Thanks to our fire department for providing Blood Pressure checks every other Tuesday each month from 8:00-10:00 am at the VRC.
 - We were delivered new cardio equipment last week. 2 new treadmills and a Nu-Step.
 - Staffing:
 - Fitness: Leslie McDermitt is a group fitness instructor and will teach three classes/week! We have also welcomed back High Fitness instructor Jillian Kovacs who is teaching her popular class on Thursday evenings at 6:30pm.
 - VRC Front Desk: new employees; Nikki Speakman and Peyton Burrows.
 - i. We are losing long time Front Desk Attendant Sandy Beeson. Sandy has been a steady force at the desk for 15 years. She will be sorely missed.
 - Custodial: Jack is working with two potential part-time custodians.

SENIOR CENTER REPORT

Jeff Kreill presented the Senior Center Report.

- From January through December, Toni has 74 Lunch & Learns currently scheduled. There is a possibility of another nine that could be scheduled. Of those 74 lunches, Toni scheduled speakers for 52 of them. For the other 22 lunches, the person or company providing the lunch is also doing the presentation.
- Toni is in the process of assembling the Summer History Speaker Series.

- Ron Hartwell from The Hub Dayton Band BRD House presented at the center on Tuesday, February 18. He shared a little about his business. Ron would like to start a Senior Jazz Band in Vandalia and is hoping we will partner with him.
- Dr. Paul Hershberger is a Professor with the Department of Family Medicine at Wright State University. He is also the Director of Research in Clinical Psychology. Dr. Hershberger spoke at the Center on Tuesday, February 4. 105 folks attended. He discussed 'Happiness'.
 - Bad relationships harm health and happiness more than good relationships benefits our health and happiness.
 - Positive Relationships is the biggest determinant of happiness. More than money and other material things. He pointed out that money can provide stabilization/happiness but an excess of money is not the biggest determinant of happiness.
- Toni's March newsletter is once again packed with activities. You can view each month's newsletter on the City's web site.

CASSEL HILLS POOL REPORT

Jeff Kreill presented the Cassel Hills Pool Report.

- RFP process for aquatic staffing is main emphasis at this point in time.

OLD BUSINESS

- There was no Old Business presented.

NEW BUSINESS

- Rodney Washburn indicated he is a member of the Vandalia-Butler Schools Levy Committee which would like to hand out campaign signs at the VRC and Senior Center in the coming weeks. Steve plans to check with City Manager to see if this request is possible. Discussion concerning the upcoming levy followed.
- Joe Dranschak mentioned that March 6 is the date for the Smith Middle School 50 year recognition event. He indicated that information with specific details has not been released yet but the Historical Society and Bee City plans to have a table at the event.
- Corey Follick inquired about when an update on the Vision 2020 Strategic Plan for the Parks and Recreation Department would be shared since it is specifically mentioned in the City Comprehensive Plan. Steve indicated he typically provides an update to Advisory Board in March or April each year.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Larry Taylor made a motion to adjourn and Rodney Washburn seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m..

Lenny Maenza, Chairperson

Rick Scherer, Secretary