

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

**January 17, 2018**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dave Lewis, Lenny Maenza, Rick Scherer, Lydia Baker, Larry Taylor, Tara Landis

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Rodney Washburn

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jeff Kreill, Rudy Wells, Steve Clark, Joe Dranschak, Aaron Messenger

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

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Lenny Maenza opened the floor for nominations for the 2018 Chairperson. Larry Taylor nominated Lenny Maenza with a second by Dave Lewis. No other nominations were made for this position. Lenny opened the floor for nominations for the 2018 Vice Chairperson. Lenny nominated Larry Taylor with a second by Dave Lewis. No other nominations were received for this position. Lenny opened the floor for nominations for Secretary. Lydia Baker nominated Rick Scherer with a second from Larry Taylor. No other nominations were received for this position. The board members present unanimously approved all three.

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the November 15, 2017 meeting were presented. Larry Taylor motioned to accept the minutes as presented and Rick Scherer seconded the motion. Motion carried all ayes.

**COMMENTS FROM INTEREST CITIZENS**

No comments from interested citizens.

**PARK MAINTENANCE REPORT**

Rudy Wells presented the Park Maintenance Report.

- Outfield fence removal on six ball diamonds at the Sports complex has been completed. The contractor (Burcor Fencing) has begun work with the installation of the black outfield fencing. Thanks to Public Works for use of the loader for pulling the posts.
- Had a very nice turn out for Jeff Kline's retirement party. Thanks to all that were able to attend. We wish Jeff all the best.
  - Lenny Maenza recognized Jeff Kline for his years of service for the record and commended Jeff's attitude and friendly nature.
- Snow and ice removal as needed.

- Planning of capital projects for 2018.
- Cleaning and routine maintenance on utility carts, mowers, snow equipment, etc.
- Completed tickets concerning building door closure problems, van tran parking sign, etc.
- HVAC / Plumbing issues associated with the extreme cold weather.
- Preparing information for the 2018 capital projects.

### **CITY TREE REPORT**

Rudy Wells presented the City Tree Report.

- Tree City USA application completed and currently under review by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.
- All tree planting was completed in the late fall at the Art Park. Seventy-two trees were planted as part of the DP&L grant.
- Forty-Nine Western Red Cedar were planted at Helke Park in two areas. These will eventual serve as windbreak/ screening at tennis courts 1-3 and pickleball courts.
  - Dave Lewis inquired as to the height the trees will grow to and Rudy responded 25-30'.
- Midwest wildflower seed mix is in place in two areas in the southwest portion of the Art Park. Seed was purchased as part of the DP& L grant dedicated to improvements to this park.

### **BEE CITY REPORT**

Joe Dranschak presented the Bee City Report.

- Joe and Al Tuttle met with a representative of Wright Patterson Air Force Base's Bee City group to discuss upcoming events and ideas.
- Joe received word from a National Bee City USA rep that the annual reporting deadline for all affiliates has been extended to Feb 19, 2018.
- An Ivory Lilac (a bee tree) has been planted at the Historical Society in honor of Helen Lawson.

### **RECREATION REPORT**

Jeff Kreill presented the Recreation Report.

- Jeff introduced intern Aaron Messenger – Soon to be a graduate from Ohio University! Aaron will be working with Alicia McCracken through March. Discussion followed.
- Brittany Oliver was officially voted in as Co-President for Miami Valley Recreation Activities Council (MVRAC). Brittany is very excited about the collaboration between the different agencies involved in MVRAC. We are currently planning a 'battle of the camps' day this summer where all agencies will meet in Fairborn and battle it out field day style. We will have inflatables, potato sack races, water games and some fun challenges for the kids to compete against other camps. We are also looking into having COSI on Wheels come that morning and rotate camp groups so each camper can participate. Brittany looked into the pricing and if five agencies commit it would be

less than \$100 per agency (not including transportation). This would be a great savings!

- The Glow Candy Cane Hunt was held December 21. 25 participants! Thanks to Tim Horton's partnership. They supplied hot chocolate and coffee.
- Brittany had a mother in the community email her about boy programs for toddlers. She said she saw the Frozen event and Magical Mermaid party but nothing geared toward young boys between the ages 3-6. Brittany is researching this idea and she hopes to offer a special event just geared toward toddler boys for the Spring/Summer program guide.
- Brittany is busy planning 2018 camp weekly themes and field trips. Career week. Brittany conducted summer camp interviews for returning counselors last Friday and Monday of this week. We were so impressed with everyone last year and we are excited that almost everyone was interested in returning for summer 2018. We are looking for two sub counselors and possibly one fulltime position, if you know anyone interested please let us know. Camp will run 12 weeks this summer beginning on May 30 through August 17.
- Winter CampREC ran from Tuesday, December 26 through Friday, December 29 and January 2 through the 5. We had 22 participants. The kids enjoyed going to Cinemark and watching the new children's movie, Coco and visiting Skateworld. The kids also played gym games, enjoyed crafts, climbing the wall, and swimming.
- Brittany met with Leslie Mosley, owner of Challenge Island today to see about bringing this program to camp this summer and possibly offering it as a special event for Spring/Summer. Challenge Island is a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) educational enrichment company. It is inspired by a popular reality TV show, Challenge Island had kids and family communities dividing into tribes and taking on exciting creative and critical thinking challenges. They have many different themes to choose from to fit our needs such as; *Space Wars Camp: Get ready for some out of this world excitement at Challenge Island Space Wars Camp! Our interplanetary tribes will take on a galaxy-full of movie-inspired challenge including building spaceships, designing droids and launching lunar rockets.*
- The Tenth Annual Tree Lighting was held on Sunday, December 3. The weather was perfect, which made for a great turn out of over 375 people. Santa was a great hit! Special thanks to the Morton Middle School Honors Choir and Handbell choir for the entertainment for the evening! Digital Cowboy, Vandalia Fire Department, Bunkers, Frickers, McDonalds, Dayton Freight and McAlister's.

### **ATHLETICS REPORT**

Jeff Kreill presented the Athletics Report.

- We are half way through the youth basketball season and so far so good! Thanks to the Optimist Club for their continued generous support of this program!
- Kindergarten/ 1st grade basketball met for the first time on January 6. 30 kids registered. Thanks to DJ Wyrick and the boys basketball team for facilitating the program.
- Co-ed volleyball leagues (Thursday Night: upper 6 teams and Friday Night: lower 7 teams) has begun.

- Currently we have 32 participants registered for the 2018 baseball/softball season, 84% of them have taken advantage of online registration.
- Windmill registrations and inquiries are coming in at a good pace. Currently, we have 9 teams registered.
- Youth softball 8U G-ball, 10U B-minor, 12U B-major, and 14U A-minor will consist of Huber Heights, Englewood (NABL), Tipp, Troy, and Piqua. Looking to do the same for the F-minor and F-major leagues in baseball.
- Alicia is working with the Jordan Shoemaker (Butler AD), Amanda Paul (Varsity Girls Tennis Coach) and the new Middle School Tennis coach (Erica Sharp) to work out details of the program for this season. We will move on as we did last year as we got positive feedback from last season.
- Thanks to Mike Seaman for conducting Pickleball classes 101, 102 & 103.

### **RECREATION CENTER REPORT**

Jeff Kreill presented the Recreation Center Report.

- Elaine will be at the February Park Board meeting to give the 2017 year-end review.
- Jack Marshall, new evening custodian is doing a bang up job!
- Since the Unlimited Child Care passes went on sale on December 1, 2017 we have sold a total of 15 passes:
  - 4 – 1 child unlimited Child Care pass (3 paid in full / 1 EFT)
  - 9 – 2 children unlimited Child Care pass (5 paid in full / 4 EFT)
  - 2 – 3 children unlimited Child Care pass (2 EFT)
- The low temperatures created a few issues recently. Temperature issues in different parts of the center and a fire sprinkler leak and a busted domestic water pipe in Ricky's Child Care. Thanks to Heeter Plumbing and our Maintenance staff for their quick response to get Ricky's back open for business the following day.
- Senior Incentive winner of the \$50 Kroger Gift card. Thanks to John Cox from Edward Jones Financial for his continued support of our Senior Programming!
  - Betty Forte November 19 visits
  - Ken Zechar December 12 visits
- Maintain Campaign for VRC Members: 85 participants with 52 of them being successful and will receive free t-shirt compliments of Hocks Pharmacy.
- Our promotion of Save 17% in 2017 has officially ended. This promotion generated \$88,680.38 (\$109,291.50 before discounts) in revenue. \$20,611.12 in discounts.
  - We ran the Gift Card Special (Get a \$5 gift card for every \$25 purchased) November 2016 through January 2017. This promotion generated \$71,814.50 (\$89,767.50 before discounts) in revenue. \$17,953 was given in discounts.
  - We believe that this year's promotion of 17% lent itself to more clarity for patrons and staff and therefore made it more successful.
- The Employee Wall of Recognition has been hung to the right of the Aquatic Center windows in the Lobby. We have received positive comments from staff regarding this addition.
- We are now partners with 5 Insurance Companies to offer free Insurance Based Memberships at the VRC

- Ash, Tivity, Blue Cross Blue Shield, **Optum and Premier Health.**
  - On January 2, 2018, we official became a preferred facility for Healthy Contribution Optum Fitness Advantage program. This is an insurance reimbursement program similar to SilverSneaker, although we do not expect the large number of enrollees.
  - Today is officially the first day for people to take advantage of their Premier Health Insurance based memberships. The program is similar to SilverSneakers except, participants can only reap the benefits from one facility. The verification process is not on-line. Rather, we will have to call Premier to verify eligibility. Therefore, verification will take more time.
- Web site continues to be updated on a regular basis. Please let us know of any concerns or considerations.

### SENIOR CENTER REPORT

Jeff Kreill presented the Senior Center Report.

- The Senior Center is a donation collection point as well as a user of donations.

#### Collections that we donate to other places:

- Glasses
- Box tops – take to schools
- Pop tabs – take to Ronald McDonald House
- Old cell phones - to Artemis House
  - Used greeting cards - to an adult disabled facility in Troy, to churches, nursing homes, and gives them to Girl Scout group to use in projects.
  - Batteries that the City collects.
  - Vandalia Food Pantry barrel.
  - For the past two years, Toni has asked seniors to buy, knit, or crochet hats, scarves, and gloves for the winter for the Food Pantry to give away. This year just as last year, the members were very generous. There were 152 scarves, 115 hats, and 50 gloves donated. Most of the scarves and hats were handmade.

#### Using donations:

- Our seniors enjoy the use of books donated by others as well as the books taken out of circulation by the Vandalia Library.
- We have a jigsaw puzzle library that is always getting new additions.
- Since many seniors give to charities, they receive back calendars, note pads, greeting cards, and ink pens that they do not need. These are put on the FREE table or if the collection overflows then it goes on the dining room tables.
- We also receive many donations from people who have lost a loved one and are cleaning out that person's possessions. Our Super Sewers and Krafty Bloomers groups benefit from some of these donations. This is where we get much of our yarn and craft supplies. Other items go on the FREE table.

- The center does not purchase tea bags or napkins for daily use. One member buys new types of flavors of teas, tries one or two, and then gives us the rest of the box. Two different members are always bringing us packages of napkins.
- Occasionally Toni gets asked to take a unique donation. Paula at Jan's Flowers gave the center 19 poinsettia plants. Toni was able to raffle them off for free... 19 happy people!
- See newsletters on-line for all the monthly happenings at the Senior Center.

### **CASSEL HILLS POOL REPORT**

Jeff Kreill presented the Cassel Hills Pool Report.

- We may be looking for a Pool Manager for this summer, as Nick Siebert may not be returning in this capacity. Jeff is hopeful to have a discussion with Nick about the position.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Steve shared the Sucher family has decided on Thursday, April 19 for the VRC dedication ceremony with an exact time to be determined very soon. The ceremony will most likely take place in the early afternoon. Discussion followed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Joe Dranschak mentioned that the new Chamber of Commerce brochure has a picture of the Art Park and Historical Society as the cover photo.
- Larry Taylor gave kudos to Steve Clark for his efforts with the Bruce Sucher Recreation Center dedication process. Discussion followed.
- Joe Dranschak informed the board the Historical Society is open to the public on the first and third Sunday of each month from 1:00-3:00 p.m. He would like to invite kids and local youth programs to visit the Historical Society.
- Steve shared the new design for the street banners that are displayed along the front of the Sports Complex, along Stonequarry Road. Discussion followed.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Larry Taylor made a motion to adjourn and Dave Lewis seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

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Lenny Maenza, Chairperson

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Rick Scherer, Secretary