

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

**October 18, 2017**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Larry Taylor, Meredith Leslie, Lydia Baker, Rodney Washburn.

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Dave Lewis, Lenny Maenza, Rick Scherer

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

Chairperson Meredith Leslie called the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to order at 6:32 p.m.

The minutes of the September 20, 2017 meeting were presented. Rodney Washburn motioned to accept the minutes as presented and Larry Taylor 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.

- Staff made a repair to the SCS unit plumbing at the recreation center pool. A large water line at the pump supplying water to the SCS pool water feature developed a leak. Staff made the repair and in the process made improvements in the function/design of the completed repair. Minimal down time of this feature was achieved as well.
- Turf aerification has begun at the Sports Complex. Mowing continues at all locations.
- Maintenance staff removed goals, team benches and bleachers from the soccer fields that are no longer in use for the fall season.
- Concrete deck removal work has begun at the Cassel Hills Feature Pool. Thanks to Public Works Department for the use of the concrete saw for this project. Staff is cutting the deck into sections for removal. These sections will be used at the Disc Golf Course to fill in low spots and serve as stepping-stones when ground is wet.
- Marked locations for tree planting at Art Park. Brown's Nursery will begin planting trees this week. Seventy-two (72) trees will be planted as part of the DP&L Grant received.
  - Larry Taylor inquired as to what types of trees are being planted. Rudy discussed the various species of trees being planted.
- Recreation Center slide tower railing replacement work continues. The railing installation is nearly complete. The railing will then be cleaned and polished, stair steps cleaned and at that point in time the slide will be open for use.

- Rodney Washburn inquired about hearing of a potential plan to tie the Art Park to neighborhoods and downtown via school property. Steve explained the city has had internal discussion about tying the Art Park to the downtown business district and one potential route would include the east side of school property. Discussion followed.

### **CITY TREE REPORT**

Rudy Wells presented the City Tree Report.

- The 72 tree locations have been located and marked at the Art Park for the planting of the Right Tree / Right Place grant project. The contractor plans to be in this Thursday to start planting trees. Tree planting will take place based on when the trees are ready for digging out of the Nursery. That is determined by leaf drop/dormancy of each particular species.
- Structural pruning took place on trees at the Sports Complex. We have one college student still working, he has been trained in proper pruning technique and is doing a good job in helping us complete some tasks that may not have made it into our work schedule if he was not still with us.
- Removal of stumps at various locations. Low areas were filled with soil and seeded.
- Landscape maintenance continues. We are splitting and transplanting perennials into various locations including the entryway sign at Bohanan Drive and the Entry Way sign at Great Hill.
- Edged and mulched 18 trees today at the Sports Complex and Helke Park. Removed tree stakes from trees planted last fall. These were young trees planted through the Commemorative Tree Program or last Falls Eagle Scout Project.

### **BEE CITY REPORT**

- Joe Dranschak shared that he and Al Tuttle received an email from Danielle Trevino of Wright Patterson's Bee City USA program seeking to meet with them to discuss an expo event that could tie into National Pollinator Week 2018. Joe and Al hope to meet with Danielle in the coming weeks.

### **RECREATION REPORT**

Jeff Kreill presented the Recreation Report.

- A fall Pickleball Tournament was held at Helke Park on October 3. Matches were played under the lights with 40 people participating.
- Steve Clark and I met with senior students at CTC that are studying Sports Management & Marketing on Friday October 13. There are only nine of them. This marks our 3rd year working with Zach Gueth's students. We are doing things slightly different this year. Students will choose to either apply for a part-time position or propose an internship within our department. The students understand that they are not guaranteed a position. Rather, the only guarantee is that they will be graded, by

Zach, and only offered a position if we feel they can benefit us. VRC staff does a great job working with the CTC students each year.

- Join us for our annual Vandalia Christmas Tree Lighting! The City will ring in the holiday season by conducting a tree lighting ceremony at the Vandalia Sports Complex at 6:00pm on Sunday, December 3. The tree will be decorated through community efforts and then lit to kick off the holiday season! Join us for refreshments, music and maybe even a Santa Claus sighting.
- Freezer Meal Planning Learn how to minimize time in the kitchen each month, save money and maximize time for the things that matter most. We will talk about meal planning, creating a shopping list and how to properly freeze meals. Experience hands-on prepping and cooking. When you leave class you will take home 2-3 meals (depending on the size of your family) that you can enjoy that evening, save for later or share with a friend. You may want to bring a freezer bag or similar to safely transport your food home.

### **ATHLETICS REPORT**

Jeff Kreill presented the Athletics Report.

- The 12th Annual Cold Stone Classic for the Boys and Girls Passers division was held on Monday, October 16. We had approximately 50 kids participate. Thanks again to Brett and Julie Neely and Cold Stone Creamery for sponsoring this event! In addition, thanks goes to Denny Bach and Super Subby's Vandalia for donating coupons for each player.
- Wings, Strikers, and Kickers tournaments being this weekend. Alicia will attend a tournament meeting in Newton tomorrow night for coaches
- Basketball registration continues through next week. We are on target to have as many participants as last year
- Turkey Shoot (November 18): We have 10 teams registered as of today
- NFL Flag football will finish regular season play this Sunday. Playoffs begin on October 29 at the BHS stadium
- Alicia is working with Trent Dues to get some dates set to offer a baseball clinic again this year. The information will be in the winter program guide
- Butler United reached out to Alicia and wants to discuss some partnership opportunities like a spring soccer training camp, and maybe some other open field ideas for the players in both leagues. Alicia will be attending an upcoming board meeting
- TOP soccer is done using our fields for the season
- Pee Wee football is now practicing in the outfields since it is getting dark earlier now. Between Derek and Cailee they are getting the lights on and off for the teams
- The fall 14U softball league has finished. We had a great fall season, and all the teams said they would be back next year as they really like the league
- Alicia was able to get five teams for the fall volleyball league that will begin 10/17. We will play 6 weeks of a regular season and then a single elimination tournament. This will get us done by the end of November and then gives them a month break before winter leagues begin. Last year we were not able to run a league due to low participation

- Mike Seaman and Alicia worked together and will be offering a Pickleball 101 workshop next Thursday, 10/26. He will be instructing the workshop free of charge. We are hoping to get some new people in here that may be interested in learning some of the fundamentals of the game.

### **RECREATION CENTER REPORT**

Jeff Kreill presented the Recreation Center Report.

- Hiring a fulltime second shift custodian. 3 candidates are moving on to round 2
- Welcome Robert Chandler – Zumba Instructor! Saturdays at 9:00
- After much research, Elaine is preparing to offer Unlimited Child Care passes to VRC members. Administrative work continues and with good timing, we can unveil the offer in December 2017
- Insurance Based Members Incentive
  - September winner: Jim Hudson - won the \$50 monthly incentive raffle for coming to the center 10 times or more throughout September. Thanks to John Cox from Edward Jones Financial for his continued support of our Senior Programming!
  - Newspapers in lobby – becoming more popular
  - Premier Health – we continue to wait to hear from Premier Health. We hope to collaborate with them similar to Trinity Health, formerly Healthways (Silver Sneakers).
- Gym Attendants
  - Attendance in the gym has been low. We plan to continue keeping the GA's hours as is through the winter months and evaluate the best hours to utilize a GA with decreased attendance.
  - Job responsibilities are increasing. This includes several cleaning responsibilities in and around the gym
- Kids Night Out was held on Friday, October 6. This monthly program had 30 kids enrolled and collected \$439.00 in program fees
- The first STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) class of this program period was held on October 4. Eight participants learned about wind power. \$190 was collected in program fees. The next STEM class will focus on robots and android and be held October 18<sup>th</sup>
- Thanks to the Vandalia Fire Department, our community youth were once again educated on the responsibilities of being 'Home Alone'. This program maxed out at 17 participants on October 14
- With Medicare open enrollment beginning on October 15, Elaine has received various inquiries from Medicare eligible seniors asking if we will be a certified fitness facility for Premier Health Insurance in 2018. Although we have sent our changes to the contract to our contact at Premier, we have not heard anything official yet
- To promote online and early program registration, we ran a \$5 off program registration coupon August 23 through September 20. 34 households utilized the coupon that equated to \$170 given in discounts
- Upcoming Events
  - Cardio Drumming (10/29; 11/26)

- Harvest Night Zumba - This special Zumba class is free to anyone who brings three or more canned goods. Canned goods will be donated to the Vandalia-Butler Food Pantry. Come dressed in your Halloween costume to add to the fun! Let's party for a good cause!
- Turkey Lift a Thon by MPower (Thanksgiving morning; 11/23 from 10:00-12:00)
- Maintain Program for VRC Members only (weigh –in 11/15-11/22 weigh-out 1/03-1/10)
- Seniors Volleyball (Tuesdays 1:30-3:30p)
- Seniors Pickleball (M/W 7a-9am/11:30a-2p; TH 6p-8p FRI 11:30-2p)
- Free Climbing Wall Nights (every 3rd Tuesday)
- Blood Pressure checks 3rd Tuesday every other month 8a-10a
- Swim lessons continue
- Recovery Rate - Year to date
  - 2014 YTD Cost Recovery through September = 84.7%
  - 2015 YTD Cost Recovery through September = 93.5%
  - 2016 YTD Cost Recovery through September = 95.8%
  - 2017 YTD Cost Recovery through September = 91.0%

### **SENIOR CENTER REPORT**

Jeff Kreill presented the Senior Center Report.

- Bazaar was held Saturday, October 7. We had an outstanding turnout. This year the bazaar netted \$4986. This money goes to the Senior Club. Toni is currently in the process of hand delivering thank-you letters to the 40 local businesses who donated to the bazaar. Another 10 businesses are receiving their letters by email or fax since that is how we communicated about the donation originally. She is also emailing thank-you letters to the 29 sponsors who donated to the bazaar.
- Crossroads Rehab Presents a Veteran's Breakfast on Monday, November 13 at 9:00 a.m. Kelly Lundqvist is continuing the long tradition of Crossroads Rehab serving breakfast to veterans and the spouses of veterans to honor their service. This is a full hot breakfast with many options from the Crossroads Rehab kitchen.
- Chris Rowlands is an Outreach Naturalist at Aullwood Audubon Center Farm and will visit the Senior Center on Tues., Nov.14 at Noon.
- Time to Celebrate with the Thanksgiving Potluck on Friday, November 17 at 6:00 p.m. Several turkeys will be roasted for this event. Sign up to bring a food to share along with your plate and eating utensils. Afterwards you will be entertained by the twenty-four members of the Vandalia-Butler High School Chamber Choir under the direction of Kevin Wilson. There is always a large crowd for this event.
- Annual membership drive is underway.
- Senior Newsletters are available for viewing on-line.

### **CASSEL HILLS POOL REPORT**

Jeff Kreill presented the Cassel Hills Pool Report.

- The deck around the Kiddy pool is being saw cut in preparation of replacement.

- Baby changing stations for both men and women's locker rooms have been purchased.
- We are adding a security camera to view the south gate fence line.
- All items necessary for the upkeep of the two tall lifeguard chairs are now on hand. Maintenance can replace the worn out parts between now and opening day of 2018.
- We hope to have the guard office window replaced before 2018.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Steve shared the Recreation Center signage in honor of Bruce Sucher has been approved by the Sucher family as well as Larry Taylor and City Council. Steve showed the board the proposed rendering for both signs. The recognition plaque is tentatively scheduled to be installed beginning November 20. Discussion followed.
- Steve informed the Board that City Council unanimously approved the recommendation from the Mayor appointed Ad Hoc Committee (Advisory Board) to name field #8 at the Sports Complex Hank Owings Field. Discussion followed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Joe Dranschak brought to the board's attention the use of the Rotary Bridge on the grounds of the Art Park and Historical Society by a Girl Scout Group for a Bridging Ceremony. This ceremonial event happens when the scouts are moving from one level to another level in the Girl Scouts of America program. The group then visited the Historical Society.
- Steve presented Meredith Leslie with several city items in recognition of her years of service on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Meredith shared her appreciation and why her family chose to live in Vandalia years ago was due to the Parks and Recreation Department. She mentioned her pride in the Vision 2020 Plan for the Department and the many great things accomplished by the department during her time on the board. Members thanked Meredith for her outstanding service and wished her the best in her future in the Columbus area.

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 7:31 p.m.

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Rodney Washburn, Vice Chairperson

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Lydia Baker, Secretary