

CITY OF VANDALIA
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

November 15, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave Lewis, Rodney Washburn, Lenny Maenza, Rick Scherer.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Lydia Baker, Larry Taylor

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Kreill, Rudy Wells, Steve Clark, Alicia McCracken, Al Tuttle

Board Member Lenny Maenza called the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to order at 6:32 p.m.

The minutes of the October 18, 2017 meeting were presented. Dave Lewis motioned to accept the minutes as presented and Rodney Washburn 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.

- Cassel Hills Feature Pool Renovation project is underway. Maintenance staff removed concrete deck with contractor due onsite in coming weeks to begin renovation work. Used old concrete on disc golf course in low areas to serve as stepping stones during wet times of year.
- Fertilizing turf at various parks.
- City Christmas tree is now in place at the VRC. Many thanks to Sandy's Towing who transported the tree from Forte residence on Mecca Drive.
- Park restrooms and drinking fountains have all been winterized for the season.
- Staff putting away summer equipment and getting winter snow equipment ready.
- Summer seasonal staff did an outstanding job this year. All plan to return next year at this point in time.
 - Lenny Maenza inquired as to when the evergreen planted at the VRC would be ready to be used as City Christmas Tree. Rudy said it will most likely be at least 4 years but probably 6-7 years before it will be big enough.

CITY TREE REPORT

Rudy Wells presented the City Tree Report.

- Fertilized trees along Dixie and National.
- Fertilized medians and entry way sign landscaped areas.
- Preparing Tree City USA Annual Report for submission by the December 1 deadline.

- Local Boy Scout scheduled to plant trees at the Sports Complex on December 9 as part of his Eagle Scout project.
- DP&L Grant for trees and landscaping at the Art Park is just about completed. 64 of 72 trees have been planted. Remaining trees will be planted when tree species are ready at the nursery.

BEE CITY REPORT

- Al Tuttle reported that of the 25 pollinator seed packets purchased 22 were sold and 3 donated to President and Vice President of United States as well as the Governor of Ohio.
- Planted pollinator seeds on both sides of the bridge at the Historical Society and Art Park.

RECREATION REPORT

Jeff Kreill presented the Recreation Report.

- Recreation Supervisor for Programs Brittany Oliver came back from maternity leave on November 11. Brittany and her three daughters are doing great.
- We are currently accepting registration for Thanksgiving Camp, which will be held November 22 at the VRC.
- We are also accepting registration for Winter Camp, which will be held December 26-29 and January 2-5 at the VRC.

ATHLETICS REPORT

Alicia McCracken presented the Athletics Report.

- Alicia distributed the end of season report for youth baseball/softball and highlighted financial summary along with program information for 2017.
- Alicia distributed the end of season report for youth soccer and highlighted financial summary along with program information for 2017.
- Youth Basketball practices have started with 17 teams participating in the program this year. Vandalia-Butler Optimist Club is once again sponsoring the program. Games begin December 2.
- The annual Turkey Shoot is this Saturday, November 18 at the VRC.
 - Dave Lewis mentioned compensation plan is being discussed by City Council and inquired is higher wages would draw more candidates for parks and recreation positions. Discussion followed. Dave indicated Council is open to paying a higher wage across the board for department part time and seasonal positions.

RECREATION CENTER REPORT

Jeff Kreill presented the Recreation Center Report.

- Jack Marshall has accepted the fulltime second shift custodian position. Once his references clear and he passes his physical and drug screen he will be on board. We are hoping to have him start before Thanksgiving.
- We have begun marketing Unlimited Child Care passes to VRC members on Tuesday, November 14.
- Senior Member Incentive Winner for October: Janet Brusman - won the \$50 gift card to Kroger in the monthly incentive raffle for coming to the center 10 times or more throughout October. Thanks to John Cox from Edward Jones Financial for his continued support of our Senior Programming!
- Premier Health: Contract has been signed. Marketing and sign-ups coming soon.
- We are updating the 'Gift Card Special'... this year we are marketing, "Save 17% in 2017". This promotion will apply to paid-in full memberships and gift card purchases of \$30 or more. We believe that this will assist in the public's understanding of the discount they receive and create less math calculations at the front desk.
 - The gift card special, as it has run for 5 years, would save a Non-Resident Family \$110.
- Successfully run programs during this period include:
 - Harvest Night Zumba (Wednesday, October 25) – over 60 canned goods were donated to the Vandalia-Butler Food Pantry.
 - Bricks for Kids hosted Mining and Crafting Lego Camp at the Rec Center on Saturday, October 21. 17 kids participated in this mini-camp. \$535 was collected in fees and \$465 was paid to Bricks for Kids.
 - The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) class on October 18, taught youth about robots and androids. 11 participants were enrolled, equating to \$250 in collected fees. Getting Wet with Water on November 1 was cancelled for not meeting minimum enrollment.
 - Other programs cancelled during this period: Monster Mash Party, Leaping Lizards and Kids Night Out.
- A new session of swim lessons began Nov 7. We continue to need lifeguards.
- 2017-18 Maintain Campaign: Members Only (weigh –in 11/15-11/22 weigh-out 1/03-1/10)
- Upcoming Events
 - Cardio Drumming (11/26)
 - Turkey Lift a Thon by MPower (Thanksgiving morning; 11/23 from 10-12)
 - 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
 - 2017 - YTD Cost Recovery through October = 90.0%
 - 2016 YTD Cost Recovery through October = 94.8%
 - 2015 YTD Cost Recovery Through October = 92.5%
 - 2014 YTD Cost Recovery through October = 85.4%

SENIOR CENTER REPORT

Jeff Kreill presented the Senior Center Report.

- Medigold once again sponsored the Volunteer Lunch, which was held Friday, October 27. 43 volunteers attended and enjoyed a great meal and received various gifts.
- The Super Sewers donated 28 lap quilts to the Amvets. Another 25 blankets and homemade afghans were donated by the members. The Amvets have a dinner each year for veterans then distribute the quilts, blankets, and afghans to needy veterans.
- The donation project for November through January is collecting hats, scarves, mitten, and gloves for infants through adults. These are given to the Vandalia Food Pantry. This is the second year for this collection. Many members and community members have already been working on these items for several months. I have two large containers already full. Some people knit or crochet the hats and scarves. They can use our donated yarn for this project.
- Senior Center member Gary Eggleston's recently passed away. His obituary asks for donations to the Senior Center in his memory.
- Monthly newsletters can be viewed on-line

CASSEL HILLS POOL REPORT

Jeff Kreill presented the Cassel Hills Pool Report.

- Nothing to report at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

- Steve shared the Sucher family has requested to wait until spring to hold the dedication ceremony at the Rec Center in order to get all family and friends from out of town to the event. Discussion followed.
- Steve gave an update on the vacant board position. Currently one resident has submitted an application. Tara Landis, a teacher with the school system is interested in serving on the advisory board. City Council will be reviewing her application on December 4.

NEW BUSINESS

- Steve distributed a copy of the Parks and Recreation Capital Project list of items completed in 2017 and plans for 2018. Steve highlighted a couple of projects from 2017 and 2018. Discussion followed.
- Steve presented the board with the 2017 NRPA Agency Performance Review document that compares Vandalia Parks and Recreation data with similar sized communities from around the country. Steve highlighted several areas and discussion followed.
- Steve informed the board that he will be providing the board with a Vision 2020 Strategic Plan update at the January board meeting.
- Lenny Maenza mentioned the board typically cancels the December meeting unless formal action is required. Discussion followed. Rodney Washburn made a motion to

cancel the December meeting unless formal action is needed. Dave Lewis seconded the motion. All in favor.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Dave Lewis made a motion to adjourn and Rick Scherer seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Rodney Washburn, Vice Chairperson

Lydia Baker, Secretary