

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

**November 28, 2018**

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

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Rodney Washburn

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jeff Kreill, Rudy Wells, Steve Clark, 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.

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

- The minutes of the October 17, 2018 meeting were presented to the board. Larry Taylor motioned to accept the minutes as presented and Tara Landis seconded the motion. Motion carried all ayes.

**COMMENTS FROM INTEREST CITIZENS**

- None

**PARK MAINTENANCE REPORT**

Rudy Wells presented the Park Maintenance Report.

- Ball diamond infield improvements on fields 1,2,3,4,5,6 at the Sports Complex and Helke 1 and 2. Added crushed granite to diamond 5. We now have infields 4,6,7,9 and 10 and Helke 1 and 2 with the granite material. This material reduces field prep time and improves field play due to wet conditions (rain-soaked infield).
- Removal of soccer field goals, bleachers, team benches, trashcans as time permits.
- Winterization of park restrooms, buildings, drinking fountains and Cassel Hills Pool. After the Veterans Day service, the baseball concession/ restrooms are now winterized.
- Preparations were made for the Christmas tree install at the VRC. Sandy's Towing moved the Christmas tree into place at the recreation center. The recent weather conditions have slowed our progress. We hope to have everything in place by the end of the day tomorrow.
- Cleaned up down limbs at various locations after the high winds.
- Soil work at Cassel Hills pool. Back filling, etc. at the new concrete entry.
- Edged the sidewalks at Helke Park using the new Ventrac with the edger attachment. Removed approximately nine cubic yards of overgrowth off the sidewalks.
- Began preparation of snow / ice control equipment and supplies. Put some of our equipment to us on three occasions so far.

- Painting at Cassel Hills pool and Fire Station #2
- Fertilization of turf grass is underway. Our one and only application needs to be timed to top growth dormancy and root activity to ensure the nutrients are taken up in the plant for next year's growing season. This has proved to be a challenge due to weather. We have made all applications less some of Helke Park and a few other areas. We will attempt to finish those areas as soon as possible.
- Asphalt repair has taken place at the Sports Complex and Facility Garage. More work to continue as weather permits.
- Set up and tear down for the Veterans Day event held at the Sports Complex on Sunday November 11<sup>th</sup>.
- *Lenny inquired about the growth of the evergreen tree planted at the VRC with plans to become the permanent Christmas tree in the future. He mentioned it looks like it is getting bigger and hopefully we can use it in the near future. Discussion followed.*
- *Joe Dranschak inquired about fertilization of turf. He indicated the Historical Society is interested in fertilizing their grounds. Discussion followed.*

### **CITY TREE REPORT**

Rudy Wells presented the City Tree Report.

- Removed excess tree and shrub growth along the northwest boundary of the Art Park. Additional access along this area is needed for the pathway improvements that will be made in the future. This area will be used for paved entry to the soon to be amphitheater.
- Cleaned up down limbs at various locations after the high winds.
- Applied slow release / organic fertilizer soil amendment to the street trees on National and Dixie. This application is to aid in keeping the trees healthy and sustained under there adverse growing conditions.
- Installed the DP&L Right Tree, Right Place grant recipient plaque at the Art Park.
- The recent ice storm has damaged many trees on City properties; we have begun some of the cleanup and will continue as time permits.
- All the trees in the Art Park were fertilized this fall. The fertilizer spikes were part of the DP&L Right Tree Right Place grant.
- The recent ice storm has damaged many trees on City properties; we have begun some of the cleanup and will continue as time permits.
- Mulched tree leaves in turf areas at multiple locations. This included the cemetery in preparation for those decorating gravestones for Christmas. We have other areas to get and landscape bed clean-up will be taking place as time permits.
- Three street trees on National were replaced. Two had died and one had been broken off in a car accident. Two Mussashino Zelkova and one Cleveland Select Pear.
- Our fall tree order included four trees; a Fat Albert Spruce – commemorative tree to be planted behind Cassel Hills Golf Course green #8, a Pacific Sunset Maple-replacement for commemorative Ash tree planted approximately in 1995 at Fire

Station #2, an Autumn Splendor Horse chestnut - commemorative tree to be planted at the Art Park and a Sawtooth Oak to be planted on the golf course.

- Honey Bee info. The prairie areas at the Art Park were busy with bees this summer / fall, also see a lot of goldfinch activity on the seed heads in the late summer/fall.
- *Lenny inquired as to how many ash trees have been removed from the Sports Complex. Rudy indicated there were 48 Ash trees in the park and all but 6 have been removed due to the Emerald Ash Borer. Discussion followed.*

### **BEE CITY REPORT**

Al Tuttle presented the Bee City Report.

- Ohio State Bee Keepers Association has two Bee City members, Vandalia and Wright Patterson Air Force Base. Al shared an example of a frame used in bee keeping that was developed by a Daytonian.
- Continue to work with Aullwood in making seed packets available at their location.

### **RECREATION REPORT**

Jeff Kreill presented the Recreation Report.

- Fall Festival attracted 200 people even with the wind advisory and the bad weather. People loved the hayrides; people were still taking them even in the rain and wind! Aaron is looking for guitar player(s) for the bonfire and hayrides and other ways to improve the event for 2019.
- Aaron is collaborating with Tracey Williams (Thyme to get Cooking), a Vandalia resident and food enthusiast. We hope her creative and engaging cooking classes that teach about how to live a healthy lifestyle, proper kitchen etiquette, and shows tasty recipes for all ages will be a hit. Each program will run one class per month.
  - Little Sprouts: Parents and Me Cooking ages 2-5 (parent and child together) 3 classes
  - Taste of HHC (Healthy Hands Cooking for Kids) 5-13 (kids by themselves) 4 classes
  - Adult Healthy Cooking Classes 18 & over; 4 classes
  - Free Class on January 5. Overview of the program.
- Christmas Tree Lighting is Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> with entertainment starting at 6:00. Thanks to Fricker's, Chick-fil-A, Airline Dairy, Christy's, McDonalds, Dayton Freight, and Digital Cowboy for donations and support of the event. Beckstrom Orthodontics will be running the hot chocolate/coffee this year. Morton Choir and Handbells led by Ms. Wissel will provide entertainment. Cool crafts in the gym!
- Turkey Shoot went very well this year. 49 teams participated. Aaron added a new component to the event called "The Big Turkey Shootout". It lasted around 10 minutes with those in attendance enjoy it. Digital Cowboy donated \$200.00 for the event.
- Homeschool Takeover – November went well on November 16, bringing in about 80 participants to the recreation center.
- Aaron is offering an event called 'Fortnite Friday' for this upcoming winter for kids aged 12-15. It is a Fortnite tournament where kids will be able to play each other, earn points by doing certain tasks, and the winner will get a gift card to GameStop. Since this

game is very trendy and popular now, Aaron wants to see if he will be able to get kids to come out for it; minimum of 10 kids for the event.

- Another Top Chef event (desserts) has sold out for December 19 for kids aged 8-13.

### **ATHLETICS REPORT**

Jeff Kreill presented the Athletics Report.

- John Myers was officially hired on November 7<sup>th</sup> to take over our youth/adult Athletics and field rentals.
- Flag football is officially over. The end of the season tournament was once again at Butler HS on Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. The kids enjoyed playing on the big field with the scoreboard, and the parents enjoyed having a concession stand and using the bleachers. As always, John Ross did a great job supervising Flag Football. Parents enjoyed taking pictures of the winners at Championship Circle.
- Youth Basketball
  - This year's boy's 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> league consists of Vandalia, Northmont, and Brookville. Teams will play games at the VRC, Northmont Middle School and Westbrook Gym in Brookville .
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade girls league consist of Northmont and us. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls' league will consist us, Northmont and Troy.
  - Practices started the end of October. Rec teams will be practicing at Demmitt and Smith between 6:15 and 9:15 and at Helke from 6:15-8:15.
  - 7/8/9 and 10/11/12 grade basketball sign-ups are underway.
- Three students tested to receive their black belt in Carrol Apple's Aikido class on Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>.
- On Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, John attended a baseball meeting for the Stillwater League Baseball League. The cities involved are Newton, Miami East, Bradford, and Covington. We are exploring the option to join a new league and add more teams to some of our baseball/softball age groups. We listened to the board discuss rule changes and things they want to see in their league. We are awaiting approval to be added to the league. Alicia and John have discussed what we want to do, whether we remain in our current league or join this new one. We will attend another meeting on Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, and will make a final decision based on that meeting.
- Currently all baseball/softball plays with Troy and Tipp. Stillwater league is concerned about our size and that we might dominate the league. They do not keep standings and tournament is prepared prior to the start of the season. They call regular season games scrimmages.
- Fall's Co-Ed Fall Volleyball on Tuesday nights is going on week 6 and everything is going smooth.
- Winter Co-Ed Winter Volleyball (Upper and Lower League) sign-ups are going on until December 14<sup>th</sup>. We have 3 registered for the Upper League, 2 for the Lower League at this point.
- *Larry Taylor inquired whether the Vandalia-Butler Optimist Club is still involved in the youth basketball program. Jeff explained they currently provide a financial contribution to the program each year. These funds are used to operate the program and keep player fees to a minimum.*

### **RECREATION CENTER REPORT**

Jeff Kreill presented the Recreation Center Report.

- Our 17% promo sale is from November 21-January 6. The discount may be used for VRC memberships and gift card purchases of \$50 or more.
- Discussion: We play the following stations: Park Board thoughts?
  - a. CBS
  - b. NBC
  - c. ABC
  - d. ESPN 1
  - e. ESPN 2
  - f. Top rated cable news (selected by a cable ratings website: TVNewser)
  - g. 2<sup>nd</sup> top rated cable news (selected by a cable ratings website: TVNewser)
  - h. Patron request channel (this channel stays on whatever was last requested)
- *Jeff asked for input about our TV station selection process for units in the fitness area. He explained the history of how we select stations and how we are currently handling the process. Discussion followed. Dave Lewis indicated the process seems fair and Larry Taylor said the VRC can't be all things to all people. The board felt we have a good process in place for the selection of stations at this time.*
- On November 15 the VRC had a power outage. The VRC stayed open and patrons were sparse. Most patrons that came to workout stayed and worked out even though light was limited. Patron names were written down at the front desk and keyed into the system once power was restored. This process was important for tracking and to receive insurance reimbursements.
- Several staff members attended an informative Alzheimer's Friendly Business Training at the Justice Center. The training was conducted by the owner of Home Instead. Interesting facts;
  - 73% of caregivers die before the patient
  - Ice cream is one of the best bribes to distract individuals with dementia because the last taste buds to die are cold and sweet taste buds.
  - *Tara Landis mentioned that MCDD has a program in which caregivers of Developmentally Handicap children can get a respite and that we could contact them to see how they coordinate the program. Discussion followed.*
- Premier Orthopedics - Dr. Guy is coming to the VRC on January 30<sup>th</sup> to speak. His topic is Women and Weight Management after Menopause.
- Sewer drain fly problem we experienced in the Men and Women's showers has been eradicated.
- Morton Middle School once again held their Anti-Bulling program at the VRC. The boys participated on Monday, November 19 and the girls program was on Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Rain Drop Products - Took the Posey back to their shop on October 31 to work on it. It was collecting water, when it should not have, the hose inside of it was too short to do any repairs, and they were going to replace the part that allows the flower to be spun. They are to return and replace it soon. We will be holding final payment until we are completely happy.
- Butler swim team is now practicing at the Aquatic Center.

- \$50 Gift Card Incentive winners (10 visits or more):
  - September-George Thomas
  - October-Phyllis Hewitt
- SilverSneakers Visit Comparison Reports:
  - Oct '17- 3,250
  - Oct '18- 3,922

### **SENIOR CENTER REPORT**

Jeff Kreill presented the Senior Center Report.

- Toni recommended Jim Gleaslen for the open Vantran volunteer position. On November 7 I took Toni and Jim to Panera so I could drive with him and get to know him. Jim is a retired electrician and is very active with his church. He is a great addition to the group of drives. His wife Carol works the front desk at the VRC.
- The volunteer lunch was held on Friday, October 26. Fifty-four members of a possible over seventy volunteers attended the event. Everyone had a great time talking with friends, enjoying a good meal, receiving their 2019 calendar booklet and a small prize to go with it.
- Approximately 40 members attended the Veteran's Breakfast on November 12 sponsored by Crossroads Rehab. In addition, two Color Guard members from Wright Pat and three honored veterans participated. One veteran was a Marine who served six tours in Vietnam and earned two purple hearts.
- Dave Weeks, a member and the president of the Disabled Veterans presented the center with a certificate and the item in the photos. He enlisted Mike Turner's help with the flag. Then he took it to the woodworkers at Wright Pat to create the display case and do the laser engraving.

### **CASSEL HILLS POOL REPORT**

Jeff Kreill presented the Cassel Hills Pool Report.

- Nothing to report at this time.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Scott Herman field naming request. Steve shared the updated Ad Hoc Committee recommendation document for City Council. Discussion followed and members signed the document to pass along to City Council.
- Steve gave an update on research of facility naming policies. He plans to have info to share and discussion at the January or February meeting.
- Lydia Baker shared information on behalf of her daughter concerning usage of the VRC gymnasium by Vandalia-Butler students. The suggestion is to use school issued ID's to gain entrance into the gym during after school hours. Jeff indicated that we checked into this options when the gym policy was updated but not all schools in the district issue student ID's. Discussion followed. Tara Landis mentioned that each school district student has an ID number that is used for lunches, checking out library books and other functions and that we may be able to work with the school district to

partner on use of this system to allow students access to the gym. More discussion followed. Jeff plans to get with Superintendent O’Leary to discuss potential options.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Steve shared the department’s 2019 Capital Projects that have been approved in the budget process by City Council. Discussion followed.
- A motion to cancel the December meeting was made via voice message by Emeritus member Bob Costello and seconded by Larry Taylor. Motion carried, all ayes.
- Lenny Maenza inquired about the research and status concerning installing a sauna at the VRC. Jeff indicated his research found this project to be cost prohibitive at this time. 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 7:37 p.m.

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Lenny Maenza, Chairperson

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Rick Scherer, Secretary