

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

**February 20, 2019**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lydia Baker, Tara Landis, Rodney Washburn, Lenny Maenza

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Larry Taylor, Dave Lewis, Rick Scherer

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jeff Kreill, Steve Clark, John Myers, Al Tuttle

- Chairperson Lenny Maenza called the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to order at 6:33 p.m.

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

- The minutes of the January 16, 2019 meeting were presented to the board. Tara Landis motioned to accept the minutes as presented and Lydia Baker 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. 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.
- 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 ping pong tables and assembled and delivered to the VRC.
- 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.
- 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 area s 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 day-long event.

### **BEE CITY REPORT**

Al Tuttle presented the Bee City Report.

- Al and Joe met with Lisa Brannon of Cedar Springs to discuss types of pollinator friendly plants that could be planted on the grounds between the Historical Society and the Art Park. Her initial recommendation is for Milkweed to be planted. Al and Joe plan to get with Rudy Wells to develop a master plan for planting pollinator plants in this area.

### **RECREATION REPORT**

Jeff Kreill presented the Recreation Report.

- It's time for our Community Garden Program registration to start up. Currently we are registering only returning gardeners from 2018. Sales to the public will begin on March 1<sup>st</sup>. We have 22 plots.
  - Registration process
    - All application forms are sent to the Parks Garage for review and processing. VRC front desk personnel *do not* handle this registration.
    - Once the application is processed, the gardeners receive an email confirming registration and advising that they can call or stop by the Rec Center to make payment at the front desk.
- Lots of programming Happening;
  - Healthy Hands Cooking for kids
  - Zoom Around the Room
  - Snow Creation Contest
  - Pic-N-Park
  - Kids Night Out
  - February Preschool Classes have begun - 3 activities centered on art & crafts, science and fun & games
  - Homeschool Takeover
  - February Family Fun Night will be happening this coming Saturday, the 23rd. I am expecting a great turn out for this event; we have over 1,200 people

interested in the event on Facebook (of course, that does not mean that all of those people are going to be coming to the rec center) and that is one of the highest interest numbers we have had for an event.

- Alicia, John, Aaron and Sarah attended OPRA conference and came back with numerous ideas.
- John and Jeff are meeting with the HR rep at ASPM on Thursday, February 21 to discuss Corporate Challenge

### **ATHLETICS REPORT**

John Myers presented the Athletics Report.

- Vandalia-Butler Optimist leagues are nearing the end of the season. 3/4 Grade Girls has ended. 5/6 Boys start their tournament this weekend. 3/4 Boys will start their tournament the following weekend and will play all their games on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. The 2<sup>nd</sup> grade league will do the same, and we are scheduled to be finished with the Optimist Leagues on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- 7/8 Grade League is a work in progress. For being the first year we have branched out with this age group and played with Troy. We have run in to injury, parental behavioral issues that lead to pulling their child, parents pulling their child due to the prior, and players being out of town. Looking at implementing several ideas for next year to improve the program.
- On February 9<sup>th</sup> we had a 7/8 grade parent/coach get in to an altercation with a coach in Troy. The decision was made for the parent involved not to return to games for the rest of the season. John was in contact with our parents throughout the week on expectations and how we were going to go forward. John attended the game on February 16<sup>th</sup> to monitor behavior and everyone was great. February 17<sup>th</sup> John attended the Troy Jr Basketball board meeting to talk about the situation. We were able to move forward from this and are looking towards finishing out this season.
  - Discussion about the incident took place among the members of the board. Lydia heard about the incident and that a Vandalia parent created the issue. Concerns over not having a coach were discussed. John shared his plans to address concerns for next season.
- The 5/6 Girls league is going well. Both of the Vandalia teams are playing very well. We had the Vandalia coaches get in to a bit of an argument one weekend, and after talking about it with each of them we are moving forward from that as well.
  - Rodney Washburn brought up a situation that occurred at the end of a 5/6 grade girls game between 2 Vandalia teams. An altercation between coaches took place after the end of game handshake. Discussion followed. John plans to have staff at the next game between the teams.
- The winter league volleyball is going very well. John Ross is doing a great job with that league, along with our weekly referees, Darrin Frizell and Karen Pedtke. The last regular season games are scheduled for March 1<sup>st</sup> then tournament will start.

- Baseball and Softball signups are picking up (65 Baseball and 47 softball registrations as of today).
- We currently have 14 teams registered for the Windmill tournament. That tournament is scheduled for May 31<sup>st</sup> – June 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Field rentals are also picking up. We have at least 3 teams that have scheduled practice dates up through June, and have a couple more that we am waiting to hear from.
- Currently have no registrations for the adult softball leagues. Those registrations will run through April 12<sup>th</sup> and we expect those registrations to pick up in mid-March.
- We are adding a women's softball league to our list of adult softball leagues. Steve Martin has been talking to a group from Brookville that is looking to re-locate. They currently have 3 teams and we have advertise that league on our Facebook page. We are hoping to get at least 4 teams for this league.
- A group of VPRD staff went and talked to the Optimist Club about some of the happenings at the Vandalia Rec Center. My topic was a \$1,500 youth basketball sponsorship that they make each year for our Vandalia-Butler Optimist leagues. This sponsorship is going to be voted on at the end of the year if they continue to donate this amount to our program due to the declining numbers in our program. We are looking in to additions to our already great league to make it more appealing to a wider range of people to register for basketball.
- John attended the OPRA Conference. Learned a lot and make a lot of new connections. He is very excited to use what he learned at the conference to help build on our great programs.

### **RECREATION CENTER REPORT**

Jeff Kreill presented the Recreation Center Report.

- Insurance Based Memberships: 2,219 individual members
  - Silver Sneakers - 1972 members
  - Prime - 117 members
  - Optum - 98 members
  - Forever Fit - 19 members
  - ASH Fitness - 13 members
- Jaime Marshall has stepped down as our Recreation Coordinator: Facilities. Thanks to Jaime and all her successes! Jennifer Web has been hired to fill the position.
- Last week Arrin Turnmire one of the Vandalia-Butler art teacher brought us new artwork for the hallways.
- Premier Orthopedics Partnership
  - Premier Health will be providing an Athletic Trainer on M & T from 9:00-11:00am and Thursday's from 7:00-9:00pm

- Ribbon Cutting is Monday, March 4 at 10:00am at the VRC's Special Events room.
- Jeff, Alicia, John, Aaron, Sarah, Jack and Steve T presented VRC happenings with the Optimist Club on Tuesday, February 19.
- We will once again work with CTC's Sports Management class (Zach Gueth). Specific plans are not solidified but they are looking at implementing a Celebrity Apprentice type of format for the students.

### **SENIOR CENTER REPORT**

Jeff Kreill presented the Senior Center Report.

- Work is already underway on the fourth annual Senior Day Carnival. The Carnival will be on Wednesday, May 1, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.
- During December and January, the Senior Center donated 85 winter scarves, 158 hats, 48 pairs of gloves, and 8 baby blankets to the Vandalia Food Pantry for them to give away.
- Once again, thanks to VB Schools for the continued relationship with our seniors. They have extended an invitation to our senior members to watch the March 21 showing of the High School musical 'Chicago' and have dinner beforehand at no cost.
  - Rodney asked if the schools have reached out to the VRC and Senior Center to invite resident seniors to the Community Forum events scheduled over the next months. Discuss followed.

### **CASSEL HILLS POOL REPORT**

Jeff Kreill presented the Cassel Hills Pool Report.

- Steve T has started to interview prospective staff.
- Informational documents are being reviewed and updated

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- None.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- None.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Tara Landis made a motion to adjourn and Lydia Baker 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