

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

**February 21, 2018**

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

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jeff Kreill, Rudy Wells, Steve Clark, Joe Dranschak, Al Tuttle, Aaron Messenger, Elaine Kaylor

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 January 17, 2018 meeting were presented. Dave Lewis motioned to accept the minutes as presented and Rick Scherer seconded the motion. Motion carried all ayes.

**COMMENTS FROM INTEREST CITIZENS**

- Lenny Maenza encouraged board members to support Bruce Sucher week, which is the week of March 4. Larry Taylor mentioned that Bruce received the Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service Award at the recent Chamber Dinner. Discussion followed.

**PARK MAINTENANCE REPORT**

Rudy Wells presented the Park Maintenance Report.

- Cleaned up trash from the medians on Dixie and the corner at national and Brown School. This task is completed as needed and averages about once to twice a month.
- Preparations for baseball season. Base clean up and repair, storage box clean up, first aid kits brought to the garage for inspection. Placement of the field distance and field identification signs have been placed on the new outfield fence. We are in the process of installing the fence topper on sponsored fields 4, 6 and 7.
- Tennis and pickleball nets etc. were installed at the Helke courts.
- Pool repair work continues on the feature pool at Cassel Hills. The contractor is in the clean-up process of the demolition work associated with the pool floor and walls.
- Met with an electrical contractor at Seger Park / Senior Center in order to obtain a price quote to provide an electric service to the northeast corner of the park for use during Farmer's Market.
- Met with contractor at Cassel Hills Clubhouse to look at possible options and obtain a quote for a chair lift installation in the interior stairwell or if this is not an option the possibility of installing an elevator type system.
- Held the practical portion of the facility maintenance technician hiring process. We feel we have some very good candidates.

- Thorough cleaning of grounds maintenance equipment and winter maintenance continues. Routine service on maintenance vehicles as needed.
- Received Ford Transit passenger van. Thanks to Public Works for making and installing the decals.

### **CITY TREE REPORT**

Rudy Wells presented the City Tree Report.

- Pruned to remove lower, broken, crossing and dead limbs on the newest trees along the north side of National Road. The trees on the south side will be completed later. Pruning on approximately 11 other trees as needed for structural improvement at various locations.
- Andrew Christian is completing his senior year of training through the Tree Commission Academy. This 50-hour training covers many aspects of proper tree care and of the importance of trees to a community. The program is presented by the State of Ohio Division of Forestry and helps us in better understanding our responsibility in maintaining and improving the urban forest.

### **BEE CITY REPORT**

Joe Dranschak presented the Bee City Report.

- Joe reports that he is currently working with a graduate student from Miami University on behalf of the City of Oxford – they have interest in the program and Joe is sharing information and knowledge about pollinators and the Bee City program. Oxford is interested in the steps necessary to become a Bee City.

### **RECREATION REPORT**

Jeff Kreill presented the Recreation Report.

- Morning with the Snow Sisters was held on Saturday, February 17 from 10-11:30a at the Senior Center. Princes and Princesses enjoyed a morning of dancing, singing songs and learned to be a princess/prince all led by Anna and Elsa from Frozen. We hit max enrollment of 24 participants for this program. Due to the high demand, Brittany increased it to 30 participants
- Homeschool Takeover will be held on Friday, February 23 from 11:30a-2p.
- February Family Fun Night will be held on Saturday, February 24 from 5:00-8:00pm. For \$10 a family (up to 6 people) participants will enjoy the Climbing Wall, Aquatics Center, Luther's Jungle and snacks. In the gym, we will have the giant Jenga, giant Connect 4, Tic Tac Toe Board and the Memory carpet squares out. Families will be able to play these games for a fun addition to the night. Thanks to our sponsor Digital Cowboy each child will receive a snow cone from Kona Ice included in the price. Kona ice will bring everything needed for the snow cones and will clean up after the event.
- Kids Home Alone program will be held on Saturday, March 3 from 9a-1p at the Vandalia Senior Center. This program reached maximum registration of 16 about a month ago. Thanks to Kim Hannahan we have added an additional class for those participants on the waitlist for April 7.

- PlayCare we will be here to clean Luther's Jungle on Friday, March 2 from 11a-4p. We will close for the morning shift and re-open for the evening shift at 4:15. PlayCare will do a thorough cleaning of the Jungle, repair any loose zip ties and assess the Jungle for any safety issues we need to be aware of at this time.
- Brandon Hough, owner of Advanced Running Project, is producing a series of three 5K's in the Miami Valley and is seeking to add Vandalia as one of three communities (August 11, 2018). He has received permits from Germantown (race in June) and downtown Dayton (October).
  - Jeff explained the request/opportunity as spelled out below:
    - He is marketing the race series to runners of all levels and has a plan to attract high-level runners (lowest net time for all 3 races)
      - 1st OA M/F - \$250 gift card to New Balance Dayton
      - 2nd OA M/F - \$150 gift card to NB Dayton
      - 3rd OA M/F - \$100 gift card to NB Dayton
      - 1st Masters M/F - \$100 gift card to NB Dayton
      - 2nd Masters M/F - \$50 gift card to NB Dayton
      - 3rd Masters M/F - \$25 gift card to NB Dayton
    - He is collaborating with 'Families of Addicts'. A portion of the proceeds will go towards helping battle the opioid epidemic.
    - Major sponsor is New Balance
  - Positives for the City
    - Unique race attracting all types of runners including high-level runners.
      - The Dayton area does not attract high-level runners. Brandon's goal is to get them here.
      - Healthy / positive event
      - Potentially a positive economic impact on community
  - Negatives for the City
    - From 7:30am-8:30am Stonequarry, Helke and W. Alkaline will have adjustments that could slightly affect homeowners and traffic.
    - Four police officers would be utilized *and paid for in full by Brandon*.
  - Input from Board members:
    - Dave Lewis mentioned a possible conflict with the annual St. Chris 5K, which is held around the same time each year.
    - Larry Taylor inquired as to how many runners are anticipated.
    - Lydia Baker and Tara Landis both feel it is not a big inconvenience for residents since the event will be held at 7:30 a.m. and residents on the race route will receive advanced notification.
    - Lenny Maenza felt we should try it for one year and evaluate the success and/or issues to determine future involvement.
    - Dave Lewis said we should take on the event instead of a third party sponsor, especially when it comes to notification of residents on race route. Discussion followed.
    - Tara Landis feels Vandalia residents would benefit and maybe event sponsor could donate to a local charity. Discussion followed and recommendations include Food Pantry, Local Autism Group, Cancer Society.

- Rodney Washburn felt the race would be good for the community and we should move forward with the event for the first year.
- Jeff informed the board the City Manager plans to present the details to City Council in an upcoming Council Study Session for discussion and input.

### **ATHLETICS REPORT**

Aaron Messenger presented the Athletics Report.

- Registration is moving right along for Baseball/Softball: We have 127 residents and 44 non-residents enrolled for a total of \$11,850 in revenue. We are up 50 participants based on this time last year, which is great! 67% of enrollment has been completed online to date.
- Sixteen teams have entered in our Annual Windmill Fastpitch tournament to date, totaling \$5,800 in revenue. This is three teams up from this time last year.
- Field rentals for travel baseball have increased for 2018. We currently have five travel teams planning to utilize our fields for the 2018 baseball season.
- We will begin our youth basketball tournament this weekend for the 2-6 grade leagues. Tournament will conclude on March 3.
- Dave Posma and Alicia have set dates for the 2018 soccer referee classes.
- Our Jr. Akido instructor, Carol Apple, will be featured on Focus Vandalia in March. Carol has been teaching classes for our department for over 20 years.
- We have four kids registered for the Middle School Tennis program that begins in March.
- New Event (basketball): March Madness - secured 2 donations from Chick-Fil-A and Fricker's for the. We currently have three teams enrolled. We plan to make a push with some small flyers to the schools this week! Event will take place March 10.

### **RECREATION CENTER REPORT**

Elaine Kaylor presented the Recreation Center Report.

- Elaine presented the 2017-year end Recreation Center report.
- Discussion during report about the cost recovery chart and revenues.
- Larry Taylor and Lenny Maenza complimented Elaine for the detailed report. Larry reminded members the purpose of the facility is for residents to have recreation opportunities and the national recovery rate is 75-80%.

### **SENIOR CENTER REPORT**

Jeff Kreill presented the Senior Center Report.

- School / City Relationship at the Senior Center is thriving!
- The past several years the Vandalia-Butler High School sends out three invitations to the members of the Senior Center to participate in the following school sponsored events.
  - a. In the fall: a "tailgate" meal followed by a football game.
  - b. In January: a dinner followed by a basketball game.

- i. Unfortunately, this year Vandalia was in school but the weather deteriorated so badly that the game was cancelled. The invitation was reissued for Feb. 13. 50 members attended.
  - c. In the spring: a dinner followed by an invitation to the musical, Thoroughly Modern Millie.
  - d. There have been so many people in the past that the high school put a limit of 80 members for the dinner.
- Arrin Turnmire, the art teacher, at Helke Elementary contacted Toni. She wanted to display a gallery of art at the center that she would change every three or four weeks. The first impressive art works from first and second graders went up on February 14.
- Julie Mahl's third grade class made Valentine cards.
  - e. On Tuesday, Feb. 13, seventy members who attended the Lunch & Learn received a card. The next day everyone who came to the center, approximately 40 members, also received cards. Seniors are very appreciative of the thoughtful cards!
- We are hard at work on the Senior Day Carnival, which will be held Wednesday, May 2. We are adding a mini health fair in the lobby.
  - f. Toni has contacted approximately 50 area businesses to sponsor the event. Local businesses have been extremely

### **CASSEL HILLS POOL REPORT**

Jeff Kreill presented the Cassel Hills Pool Report.

- Mid-American Gunite Pools working on feature pool renovations. The pool will have a fresh new look when the pool opens Memorial Day weekend.
- Steve Trick is interviewing and hiring staff for the upcoming summer season at CHP as well as looking to fill current positions at the VRC.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Steve shared the Sucher family has decided on Thursday, April 19 at 3:00 p.m. for the VRC dedication ceremony. Steve will be meeting with City Manager Crusey and Rich Hopkins to begin the planning process for the ceremony.
- Steve shared that the new street banners in front of the Sports Complex, along Stonequarry Road, are now in place. Members agreed they look very nice.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Steve shared that plans are underway to place a sign on field #8 at the Sports Complex to honor Hank Owings. A field dedication ceremony will be set once a delivery date has been established for the sign. The ceremony will most likely take place on a Saturday in late April or May during the youth baseball/softball season.
- Joe Dranschak mentioned that we should be proactive concerning security issues given the recent school shootings and other mass murder events around the country. Discussion followed. Jeff Kreill said he would be sure to include this topic in an

upcoming staff meeting and encourage staff to be cognizant of the situation and be vigilant in the supervision of our facilities and events.

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 7:45 p.m.

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Lenny Maenza, Chairperson

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Rick Scherer, Secretary