

CITY OF VANDALIA
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
March 21, 2018

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Larry Taylor

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 6:32 p.m.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the February 21, 2018 meeting were presented to the board. Rodney Washburn 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.

- Snow and ice control... continues.
- Thorough cleaning of grounds equipment in preparation for winter maintenance continues.
- Baseball/Softball field preparation of equipment. Maintenance to bases, cleaning of storage boxes, ordering supplies and field preparations for school teams. Borrowed roller from Public Works to roll the infield /outfield junction. Performed some needed maintenance to some of the field warning tracks.
- Soil work at cemetery. Landscape maintenance at other areas- bed clean up.
- Removed broken glass at Robinette park play structure areas. (2x in the last week)
- Placed and netted two large soccer goals at Helke Park.
- Began placing widescreens on outfield fence for girls' softball. Had to hold off on completing the install due to unfavorable wind.
- Routine maintenance work in preparation for the mowing season is underway on the large pull behind mowers; the mowing trailer has been serviced.
- Work continues on the Cassel Hills feature pool restoration project.

CITY TREE REPORT

Rudy Wells presented the City Tree Report.

- Installed Manganese + fertilizer spikes to the soil around 29 Red Maple trees at Robinette Park. Occasional treatment is needed due manganese deficiency in these trees. Last treatment was 18 years ago.
- Large dead ash tree at the sports complex near the water tower was taken down. A large Tulip Poplar at the cemetery with a severe lean was removed. Five Ash at the entry drive to the recreation center were removed. These had become infested with EAB and a large branch had broken in one of these trees just recently. A large Silver Maple near the shelter at Robinette Park was also removed due to severe dieback.
- Transplanted a small evergreen tree at Robinette Park that was donated by a park neighbor.
- Ordered 300 Blue Spruce seedlings to be given away at our Arbor Day event. Planning to order an Espresso Kentucky Coffee tree for this year's event and plant it near the play structure at Helke Park.
- Contacted Brown's Nursery concerning the planting of the 49 Western Red Cedar near the Helke Park tennis and pickleball courts last fall and the need for some attention due to the winter winds

BEE CITY REPORT

Al Tuttle presented the Bee City Report.

- Al distributed a Bee City Pamphlet to each board member. The pamphlet contains information about Vandalia's Bee City program.
- Al reported the Historical Society Board approved the purchase of 25 seed packets for \$330.50 at the March 12 Board meeting. These packets will be offered to the community for \$10 per packet. Al displayed what the packet looks like and discussed how much the packet will plant.
- Al, Joe and Mary Geiger plan to meet soon to discuss "Pollinator Plans" for 2018.

RECREATION REPORT

Jeff Kreill presented the Recreation Report.

- 5K race has been approved. 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).
 - Partners include
 - Families of Addicts - A portion of the proceeds will go towards helping battle the opioid epidemic.
 - DEA 360 (Drug Enforcement Agency) - It is a National (Detroit, Louisville and Pittsburgh) pilot program. The national strategy emphasizes prevention, treatment and recovery, and collaboration with law enforcement. They are heavily involved in communities suffering from the heroin and opioid epidemic
 - Children's Medical
 - Major sponsor is New Balance
- Recent successful Programs;

- Pee Wee Kids Night out was held on Friday (3/9) from 6-8:30p. This program is for kid's ages 3-5 years old. The kids made slime and a St. Patrick's Day craft, games in the gym and made a snack necklace. We had 9 children enrolled in this event and brought in \$14.18 in net revenue.
- Galaxy FAR AWAY Bricks 4 Kidz mini camp was held on Saturday (3/10) from 9a-12p. Participants built motorized Lego models, created mosaic crafts, and participated in challenges that all related to their favorite adventures in a galaxy far away! We had 12 participants for this program and brought in \$55 in net revenue.
- The Underwater Egg Hunt was held on Saturday, March 17. We had 44 participants for this program with maximum enrollment in our 5-7 and 8-10 age group. This program brought in \$149.54 in net revenue.
- Upcoming Events:
 - Spring break camp will be held the week of March 26-30. We currently have 18 participants signed up for the week! Activities will include swimming, games, gym, climbing wall, crafts, field trips and more.
 - The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 31 at 11am sharp! Thanks to the Girls Softball team for filling all 8,000 eggs before they leave for their Softball tournament in Florida. The National Honor Society will have 20 members helping the day of to toss out the 8,000 eggs in designated fields. Also thanks to First Baptist Church of Vandalia for donating 4,000 eggs filled with the candy for the event. In addition, a big thanks to Butler Township for donating \$500 to help cover the cost of candy and eggs.
 - CampREC fees, weekly themes and field trips are all set and available on our website. The Camp fees were increased by \$6 for the weekly rate and \$1 for the daily rate for Non-residents. This will cover our increase in transportation cost, increase cost in field trip fees, and a separation in fees between Resident and Non-Resident.
 - STEM class-Nanostructures tonight from 6:00-7:30p. There are currently 5 people enrolled.
 - Homeschool Takeover will be held on Friday, March 23 from 11:30a-2:30p.

ATHLETICS REPORT

Jeff Kreill presented the Athletics Report.

- Baseball/softball draw is tonight.
 - We will be offering a rule review session on April 10th to the coaches again; we did this last year and had a great response!
 - We have 36 teams in the youth league this year in the T,G,F, and B leagues. That is up 3 teams from last season!
 - We currently have 512 kids signed up for the baseball/softball program- 365 residents and 147 non-residents totaling \$35,870 in revenue. (555)
 - 11 committed team sponsors so far this season for revenue of \$2,400. Alicia will discuss sponsorship with coaches at the draw.

- Dave Posma has had a nice turn out for the umpire classes this year with about 16 kids.
- The E-leagues will be having their draft in the next few weeks.
- Alicia met with Tipp, Troy, NABL (Northmont), Huber Heights and Piqua on Sunday for the girls' softball leagues. She look forward to working with them this season! 18 teams per league. 8u we have 4 teams. Bminor and Bmajor we have 3 teams in each.
- 21 teams are currently registered for the Windmill June 1-3 with a revenue of \$7,615. (14 in 2017).
- 6 teams are registered for the Slugfest June 15-17 with a revenue of \$2,375. (32 in 2017).
- Middle School Tennis has 22 kids enrolled. That is over double what we had last season! Such a great opportunity for some of the teens in our community. New Coach is Erica Sharp (son is Daiton Sharp). Girls varsity tennis team is helping (Amanda Paul is the girls varsity coach).
- Burt Mattice the new girls' varsity soccer coach. Alicia has been working on setting some dates to offer a Middle School Soccer Camp this summer. He also has confirmed the girl's team will help with Lollipop soccer again this year.
- The March Madness Event held on March 10th was a huge success. We had 65 teams participate. Aaron Messenger, our intern, did a great job getting that program together! The program brought in \$369 in revenue. Thanks to the sponsors; Airline Dairy Crème, Bunker's, Fricker's-Vandalia, Cold Stone Creamery, Chick-fil-A, Christy's Pizza, McAllister's, Domino's.
- We are offering a Pickleball Ladder League to run the month of April. It is almost full we have 10 participants and we need 12. (every Wednesday 2:00-4:00).
- Elaine and Alicia are visiting Demmitt on Friday to read to a couple of the 1st grade classes. Elaine is Ricky this year 😊 (Harry Wigglebottom – sportsmanship).
- Rodney Washburn inquired about our youth basketball program and the possibility of adding a 7th-8th grade program for girls. Rodney explained that his wife coached a 6th grade team and many of the families would like to see an opportunity for girls to be able to continue playing recreational basketball. Jeff explained the history of the program and previous attempts to offer a league beyond 6th grade. Discussion followed. Rodney asked that we take a close look at this idea and Jeff assured him that he would speak with Alicia McCracken about the idea.

RECREATION CENTER REPORT

Jeff Kreill presented the Recreation Center Report.

- John Battelle's last day was yesterday... March 20, 2018. John will be sorely missed and will be impossible to replace. His commitment to VRC custodial operations was unmatched. He had non-stop energy, took calls at home at all hours, repaired machines, purchased equipment, participated on the policy and procedure committee, managed vending and countless other tasks. Best of luck to John in retirement!

- Premier Health
 - On March 8, we sent letters to our Premier members, informing them that their membership will expire on March 31. In the letter we included other options they have to continue utilizing the Vandalia Recreation Center
 - Gym Sponsor
- Discussions have resurfaced regarding opening the VRC at 5:30 M-F: Over the years, we have had numerous members ask if we would open earlier so they could get a workout in, shower and still get to work in a timely manner. Elaine is starting conversations with supervisors to see if they could staff the earlier hours.
 - Jeff posed a question to the board concerning operating hours for the VRC and whether anyone had an opinion on what time would be best to open the facility on weekdays as we have received a number of requests from current patrons to open earlier. Discussion followed. The board unanimously felt the VRC should open at 5:00 or 5:30 a.m. on weekdays. Lydia Baker said she has many personal training clients that would love to see the facility open earlier for training and workout purposes. Tara Landis indicated she knows many fellow teachers that are not members at the VRC because we do not open early enough for them to work out and get to school on time. These people go to other facilities that are open earlier.
 - Jeff then asked the board whether we should consider opening the Aquatics Center at the same time as the building because we currently struggle with getting sufficient aquatics personnel for the 6:00 a.m. shift. Discussion followed with the board's opinion being it would be more important to open the workout area and leave the aquatics opening time as it currently is set. Jeff plans to review this input with VRC staff and look at the options for opening at 5:00 or 5:30 a.m. on weekdays.
- Discussion about our Department mission: Enhance the lives of our citizens and community by providing quality and diverse facilities, programs and services. Seeking opinions of Park Board members... stick with our interpretation of the mission which is to provide opportunities for everyone ages 0-100. Pickleball.
 - Jeff asked for board input about scheduling of the facility for programs and activities, specifically Pickleball. Lydia Baker feels we should be more diverse with our scheduling and not use any additional gym time for Pickleball. Dave Lewis indicated we should offer activities that blend a cross section of our users and cater to as many specialty groups as possible. The board concluded that we should offer activities and facility times for a broad section of the community and not create a situation in which one user group dominates usage of certain areas of the building.
- Two new FC have been hired recently. Training with our newest FC, Julie Pratt is going well. Julie has twice met with Elaine for orientation and will begin shadowing FC shifts this week. Tami Henderson will begin orientation on April 10. Julie and Tami are both Vandalia residents and will be wonderful additions to our staff.
- Elaine has been researching/pricing motorized blinds in the Gymnasium. We have received requests from the Pickleball group to provide a solution to cut down on the glare on the courts during sunny afternoons.

- We now have six staff members who are Water Safety Instructor W.S.I. certified! We will be phasing them in for the next session of lessons.

SENIOR CENTER REPORT

Jeff Kreill presented the Senior Center Report.

- New members at Senior Center: March: 12 new members joined; February: 8 new members joined; January: 9 new members joined.
- Toni typically register at least one to three new members every week. It has been like this for more than a year.
- At least three people a week come in asking questions about the center and getting newsletters.
- They are encouraged to come three times free to check out the center and get comfortable with it.
- Lost members: We have lost five members since the beginning of the year. Bud Butts, Bob Townsend, Rita Abele, Charlie Stubbs, Joan Denman.
- Celebrating members: Earlier this month we celebrated Alice Bair's 99th birthday. She is our oldest member. Ruth Flory is right behind her with a birthday three weeks later. We hope to be celebrating her birthday later this week. Alvin Martin has his 99th birthday in April. Dorthabell Fox will celebrate her 98th birthday in July.
- Rodney Washburn reported that he discussed the Senior Center and VB Schools relationship with Superintendent Rob O'Leary. He said Rob is appreciative of the relationship and hopes to be able to do more with the seniors in the future.

CASSEL HILLS POOL REPORT

Jeff Kreill presented the Cassel Hills Pool Report.

- Steve Trick is finalizing staff and other administrative responsibilities in preparation of opening the pool.
- Christy's will be back to operate concessions for 2018 season.

OLD BUSINESS

- Steve shared with the board that the date for the Hank Owings Field dedication ceremony would be Saturday, May 5 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sports Complex, field #8. Discussion followed about the ceremony and signage.

NEW BUSINESS

- Steve reported that sponsors have been secured for the Annual Star Spangled Celebration, which will take place on Tuesday, July 3 at the Sports Complex. Fifth Third Bank, Beau Townsend Ford, Joseph Airport Toyota, Smedley's Chevrolet and Digital Cowboy Computers are all confirmed as sponsors for the 2018 event. Butler Township is once again committed to sharing any expenses for the event beyond what the sponsorships cover.

- Joe Dranschak indicated he received a call about the Butler High School Class of 1968 coming to the Historical Society and Art Park as part of their reunion weekend. Joe posed the question about whether there is a brochure or anything available for Art Park visitors that could be distributed to the group during their visit. Dave Lewis said he would check into it. Tara Landis indicated she will be working with Candice Farst on a school art project and will discuss with her as well. Discussion followed.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Dave Lewis made a motion to adjourn and Tara Landis seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Lenny Maenza, Chairperson

Rick Scherer, Secretary