

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

October 16, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave Brusman, Lenny Maenza, Bob Costello, Meredith Leslie, and Bud Zupp

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Larry Taylor and Angie Boyd

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Clark, Rudy Wells, Donna Fiori, and Jeff Kreill

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order by Chairperson Lenny Maenza at 6:33pm.

The minutes of the September 18, 2013 meeting were presented. Bob Costello made a motion to accept the minutes as typed Lenny Maenza seconded the motion. Motion carried, all aye.

COMMENTS FROM INTERESTED CITIZENS

Interested citizen Tony Sanders was in attendance.

PARK MAINTENANCE REPORT

Rudy presented the Park Maintenance Report. Rudy reported cases of vandalism occurring at Helke Park. Four cameras used during the installation of the sprinkler system at the Justice Center and are no longer needed, have now been installed at Helke Park. They are motion activated and connected to a dvr player. Rudy indicated the police are pleased to have this in place. Work is being done to improve the appearance of Helke Park. The underside of Helke shelter has been stained and the metal posts are being painted. Exterior lighting improvements at the Recreation Center are complete including a pole light at the west walkway and two LED lights at the main entrance.

CITY TREE REPORT

Rudy is working on achieving Tree City USA status for our community by meeting four core standards required. One of the standards is having a tree board. Rudy indicated a lot of the topics discussed during the Park Board meetings are trees he will use this time to meet the Tree Board standard. The Tree City USA program is a national program that provides the framework for community forestry management for cities and towns across America. Rudy stated 10 trees have been planted along the new pathway extension at the sports complex, two Commemorative Trees are due to be planted, and two trees will be replaced on National Rd. Tree pruning at various sites have taken place. Removal of dead and dying ash trees will take place this fall and winter. Segar Park ash trees will be removed

with plans to replant this area in the fall of 2014. Marty will be planting 10 trees on the golf course. Steve stated at the golf course Marty has been taking out the worse ash trees and replacing them as he goes trying to keep a buffer between the fairways. He is holding off on taking down all the ash at once and losing that barrier. Hopes are the replaced trees will have time to grow before the other ash trees along this barrier have to come down.

RECREATION ATHLETICS REPORT

Alicia is unable to deliver the athletics report due to a family emergency. Alicia will present the athletics report at next months' meeting.

RECREATION CENTER

Jeff reported there is a new Aquatics Supervisor, Steve Trick, who comes to us with over 20 years of aquatics experience. Steve Trick is a great addition to the Parks and Recreation staff. Brandi the Recreation Supervisor has left her position and Diamond Clemons is helping to cover some of the responsibilities until a new supervisor is found. The Recreation Center had Member appreciation days which was well received with free hand sanitizer and Be Our Guest passes given out as a token of our appreciation. Jeff addressed some of the issues occurring at the Recreation Center in relation to an aging building. The building is now 12 years old and the emergency generator, air handlers in hvac system, and the electrical, need work. Although it can be financially draining and daunting fortunately these issues are getting worked through. Well-O-Ween is scheduled to take place this weekend.

Jeff presented the VRC financial report using the charts below.

Month to Date Comparison - August

Category	2012	2013	Difference +/-
• Revenues	\$85,006	\$69,603	-\$15,403
• Expenditures	\$161,247	\$149,631	-\$11,616
• Cost Recovery %	52%	46.5%	-5.5%
• Daily Admissions	\$7,930	\$8,431	+\$501
• Memberships	\$43,673	\$40,209	-\$3,464

Year to Date Comparison (As of August 31)

Category	2012	2013	Difference +/-
• Revenues	\$757,732	\$759,134	+1,402
• Expenditures	\$887,830	\$923,303	+\$35,473
• Cost Recovery %	85%	82.2%	-2.8%
• Daily Admissions	\$88,643	\$106,515	+\$17,872
• Memberships	\$406,039	\$401,230	-\$4,809

PROGRAM REPORT

Jeff delivered the program report. Touch a Truck was run again on a Saturday morning this past month in conjunction with Soccer which works out great. The kids flock over after their games enjoying the trucks, craft tables, and balloon animals created by Jeff Whisman. Our first Adaptive Dance was held this month with 22 special needs people in attendance. Girls were able to get their hair and make-up done at the senior center ahead of time. The participants came dressed up, received flowers along with pictures, and danced the whole time. It was a very meaningful event and Jeff anticipates this to become a bigger event in the years to come. The fall festival was this past weekend, with hay rides, pumpkins, bon fire, and smores. Brittany did a super job putting this together and was a big success. Upcoming events are the speaker series featuring Anthony Gibbs presenting 'Milton Holland and The 5th U.S. C. T.', spooky sleepover, and the Lions Club Halloween Parade. Kids home alone program, thanksgiving camp, and Christmas tree lighting are also upcoming events.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

Programs	Status	Participants	Revenue	Expenditures	Net Revenue	Program Dates
Touch a Truck	Completed	300 +	0	0	0	9/21/2013
Adaptive Homecoming	Completed	22	\$330.00	\$200.00	\$130.00	9/28/2013
Fall Festival of Fun	Completed	180+	\$882.00	\$465.78	\$416.22	10/12/2013
Speaker Series	Upcoming					10/24/2013
Spooky Sleepover	Upcoming					10/25/2013- 10/26/2013
Lion's Club Parade- Sports Complex & Gym	Upcoming					10/28/2013
Kids Home Alone	Upcoming					11/09/2013
Thanksgiving Camp	Upcoming					11/27/2013
Christmas Tree Lighting	Upcoming					12/01/2013

OLD BUSINESS

Lenny Maenza inquired if there were any developments in the incident at Robinette Park involving a runner that was attacked. Steve indicated there were no further developments from the police as they questioned the runner involved and were unable to track anything further. As a result people involved with our Park Watch program have called asking what else could be done from our perspective to prevent such an incident. Steve stated we have put up additional Park Watch signage at Robinette Park and Rudy is working with Public Works to cut back honeysuckle along the path. Rudy stated his people will clean it out and plant grass once the honeysuckle is gone which will open up about 30 feet along the path giving a better line of site.

Meredith Leslie recognized and thanked Rudy and his team for the gardens and water line this summer. Meredith indicated it made it an easy process to keep and maintain her garden.

Jeff opened up discussion on a topic Larry Taylor brought up at the last meeting in reference to revenue and the purpose of the recreation center. Are there concerns that we have gone too far away from its original purpose when it was opened by council as a center for our community for Vandalia residents? Has the Recreation Center gone more toward outside groups renting the facility causing it not to be as available to our patrons, and lost touch on the purpose of the Recreation Center? Lenny Maenza questioned if we have had complaints and Jeff indicated we have not. Meredith Leslie stated as a resident and a patron she appreciates that the outside rentals help prevent her rates from going up each year. Bob Costello mentioned that many Recreation Centers are fully subsidized by their cities, which makes us a rarity in that we often have recovery rates in the mid 80% range. Steve stated that some of the concerns and struggles coming from this topic are if we are going to try and maintain a low to mid 80's recovery rate we've got to look at opening it up for more rentals to outside user groups which then comes back to the philosophical struggle of our purpose as a Recreation Center. Keeping in perspective the maintenance of an aging building, minimum wage and costs going up, with our revenues remaining fairly the same it is becoming more of a struggle to maintain recovery rates while keeping mindful of our purpose. Jeff brought up this winter they will always keep half of the gym available to members unless there is a special event which means not receiving as much revenue for renting it but will keep in mind our members. Dave Brusman stated from his perspective on council, it is very much appreciated the revenue recovery the Recreation Center does get and anything above 80-82% is really good. Dave indicated it has to be supplemented some but the Recreation Center is doing well and the mixture that we have now seems to be working good. Further discussion occurred.

NEW BUSINESS

None discussed

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Bob Costello made a motion to adjourn and Meredith Leslie seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried all aye. Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.

Lenny Maenza, Chairperson

Bob Costello, Secretary