

**CITY OF GAHANNA  
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD  
MINUTES – August 6, 2014**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vincent Tremante, Chair called the meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board to order on Wednesday, August 6, 2014, 7:02pm, at the Gahanna City Hall.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Luke Messinger  
Eric Miller  
Andy Piccolantonio  
Jan Ross  
Jill Schuler – 7:04pm  
Vincent Tremante

**Absent:** Cynthia Franzmann

In attendance from the City Administration was Tony Collins, Director, Department of Parks & Recreation.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

**New Business**

563.18 Park Code revisions  
Park Crossing

**HEARING OF VISITORS**

Visitor in Attendance - Nancy Cahoon, President of the Senior Center Advisory Board

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Ross made a **MOTION** to approve the June 14, 2014 meeting minutes; seconded by Messinger. **On roll call vote:** Messinger, yes, Miller, yes, Piccolantonio, yes, Ross, yes, Schuler, yes, and Tremante, yes. **Motion carried 6-0.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Cell Tower – Academy Park**

Collins shared the updated placement proposal from AT&T for a cell tower at Academy Park. Previously the board stated they did not like the original placement plan. The current plan calls for the tower to be at the end of the service road on the edge of the tree line. The Board's authority is whether or not the board decides to have a cell tower in the park in the proposed placement. Next would be a public process then Council vote.

After some discussion the board would like to know how loud the tower is, how tall is the tower and what is the environmental impact? Collins will present the questions to the company and get back to the board.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**563.18 Fishing - Park Code revision**

Collins distributed a request to recommend changes to Park Code 563.18 Fishing. The changes are being requested to encompass all City owned park ponds to simplify the code.

## **563.18 FISHING.**

In all park ~~waters~~ **CREEKS** fishing shall be permitted subject to the statutes of the State. Fishing at ~~Woodside Green Park Pond and Woodside Green South Park Pond~~ **ANY CITY OWNED PARK POND** will be catch and release only except for special programming authorized by the director of Parks & Recreation. (Ord. 0291-2007. Passed 12-17-07)

Schuler made a **MOTION** to recommend the proposed change to 563.18; seconded by Messinger. **On roll call vote:** Ross, yes, Schuler, yes, Tremante, yes, Messinger, yes, Miller, yes, and Piccolantonio, yes. **Motion carried 6-0.**

### **Fleet Run**

Collins shared with the Board the Grow Zone at Fleet Run Reserve a parcel of property the city ended up with when asked to take over Hunters Ridge Pool. The reserve is 6 acres that abuts 29 residents and has no structures on it. The department has maintained the Reserve for 10 years as a field.

As the department is dealing with reducing maintenance cost and defining priorities, staff decided to make the Reserve a Grow Zone. It is now an area in which grass is allowed to grow. In the early summer crews started mowing two decks off the fence line and a two deck path through the reserve and allowed the remainder of the grass to grow. Collins received lots of calls regarding concerns about the aesthetics, environmental (bring ticks, raccoons, squirrel, skunks, etc.) and property values. Staff sent a letter and a flyer regarding Grow Zones to the residents after calls started coming in. Collins stated staff went ahead and mowed another deck around the reserve, making 15ft mowed off resident property.

Another letter will be sent to the residents letting them know at the end of the season the entire reserve will be mowed down so the invasive will not grow. Between the fall and the spring staff will present a drawing of what the reserve could be with planting a couple of areas of trees, wildflowers and installing blue bird boxes. Collins will keep the board updated.

### **Pools**

Collins shared that some residences have formed a group in the community to try to keep the pools open and to contract with the current pool contractors. Staff is putting together a timeline of information on the pools. The information will contain a private, public and closed option for the pools. The plan is to present a five-year projection (direct and indirect cost) going forward. Staff will present the plan to Council at the end of August; and to the public after that.

### **Park Crossing**

Collins shared that the Park Crossing Multi-family homes being built on Hamilton Rd by the Lead Building Co has cleared the trees. They were specifically told not to cross the park boundaries; they removed trees from the park. The city did an initial assessment to the tree damage and ground impact. Because it is criminal and litigation the city is consulting with attorneys and a private consultant to give an estimate of the damage. The city is going to hold the company accountable for the damages.

### **Park Impact Fees**

Collins stated the developer has indicated they do not plan to pay the Park Impact Fees of \$500 per unit which is approximately \$96,000. He is arguing that it doesn't apply. Staff has decided that the language does apply and precedence has been set in the past with other multi-family unit developers paying the fees. They have been given permission for an interim grading plan that doesn't impact the outside ring of the property. They do not have permission to begin any structural activity until the Park Impact Fees are paid.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**DIRECTORS REPORT**

Collins shared the updates from July for Parks, Facilities and Recreation. The Gateway will be available the week of August 18<sup>th</sup>.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Aquatics Advisory Committee**

Nothing at this time

**Bicycle & Trail Advisory Committee**

Nothing at this time

**Natural Resources Advisory Committee**

Tremante stated that in the next couple of weeks the committee will meet regarding the Foxwood/Rice Ave. project.

**MEMBERS COMMENTS**

**Gahanna Parks & Recreation Foundation**

Miller stated a representative from the Columbus Foundation shared the opportunities they can provide to GPRF.

Miller said the Foundations fundraiser this year is Creekside Hopes & Vines is on Saturday, September 20, 2014. Tickets can be purchased on line.

**Veteran’s Memorial Committee**

Nothing at this time

**School Board Report**

Schuler shared that the board decided to put a continuous permanent improvement on the ballot in November; which equates to approx. \$3 million per year. This is the first time the district has ever had a permanent improvement levy. School starts on Wednesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Parks & Recreation Board at this time, Messinger made a **MOTION** to adjourn. The Board meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Pam Ripley, Administrative Assistant

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014

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Vinnie Tremante, Chair