

**CITY OF GAHANNA
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – November 4, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER

Eric Miller, Chair called the meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board to order on Wednesday, November 4, 2015, at 7:00pm at Gahanna City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Cynthia Franzmann
Luke Messinger
Eric Miller
Andy Piccolantonio
Jan Ross
Jill Schuler
Vincent Tremante

In attendance from the City Administration was Mike Musser, Deputy Director, Department of Parks & Recreation, and Patrick Monaghan, Recreation Supervisor at The Center, Department of Parks & Recreation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Tremante made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes from the October 7, 2015 meeting; seconded by Miller. **On roll call vote:** Franzmann, yes, Messinger, yes, Miller, yes, Piccolantonio, yes, Ross, yes, Schuler, yes, and Tremante, yes. **Motion carried 7 – 0.**

ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Musser stated that “Scholarship & Access Pass Information” should be added under “New Business”.

HEARING OF VISITORS

Musser introduced Patrick Monaghan, who was present from the Department of Parks & Recreation. Monaghan joined the Department in April as a Recreation Supervisor and took over many of Danise Hall’s duties at The Center. The Department wishes to make The Center more intergenerational in order to attract active adults in addition to the seniors, and Monaghan has been a part of that effort.

NEW BUSINESS

Scholarship & Access Pass Information

Musser explained that in an effort to make recreation programs accessible to more people, the Department of Parks & Recreation was looking into the possibility of providing discounted rates for pool passes and swim team for those who can’t afford the full price. To do so, the Department would create an “Access Pass” with a discounted rate for families with children in the “free” and “discounted” lunch programs. Musser distributed a handout with further information and breakdowns of the prices associated with the Access Pass. Musser explained that what the Department was asking from the Board was a fee waiver to create the Access Pass.

Ross explained that the Parks & Recreation Foundation had not yet approved the idea of a pool scholarship, and some members of the Foundation had concerns about the lack of structure associated with aquatics scholarships (as opposed to the camp scholarships). Schuler agreed

that there should be a method to measure the success of such a program. Musser expressed that unlike the camp scholarships, which would only benefit the child, creating the discounted family pool pass would allow the whole family to engage in recreation. Schuler and Ross expressed interest in starting with a limited program with the intent of gauging interest and return.

Musser explained that a long-term hope for the program would be to engage more children in aquatic sports with the hope of employing some of them as older teenagers. When asked if there was any concern about overcrowding with such a program, Musser explained that one of the Gahanna pools only reached maximum capacity once, therefore there wasn't any concern.

Messinger expressed support for the program, praising it for expanding access to the pool and possibly leading to participation in a lifelong sport or work as a lifeguard. Ross pointed out that "just being at the pool" doesn't necessarily mean the kids are in an educational environment, therefore she'd be more supportive of funding for swimming lessons.

Further discussion occurred about various operational aspects of the program.

Schuler made a **MOTION** to waive the fees and accept the Access Pass rates, seconded by Messinger. Tremante asked to amend the motion to the following: **MOTION** to waive the fees and accept the Access Pass rates and restrict the age 3-10 rates to swim team members only. **On roll call vote:** Ross, yes, Schuler, yes, Tremante, yes, Franzmann, yes, Messinger, yes, Miller, yes, Piccolantonio, yes. **Motion carried 7-0.**

OLD BUSINESS

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Creepside

Musser stated that with the Creepside festival being as large as it was this year, there have been discussions about moving future Creepside festivals to the weekend. There were also complications with traffic, as many of the attendees were not from Gahanna. When asked if it would be more beneficial to limit the event to Gahanna residents, Musser explained that from a community standpoint, it is beneficial for Gahanna to draw tourists, who would then spend money at various Gahanna businesses. He also explained that limiting the event to Gahanna residents would also be impractical from an operations standpoint, since more volunteers would be needed to admit attendees, and the area would need to be fenced in order to monitor the entrance.

Piccolantonio explained his misgivings with the event, stating that he wished it was a community event rather than a greater Columbus area event. He suggested that discouraging attendees by charging for attendance, we should incentivize Gahanna resident attendance by offering free tickets to Gahanna residents and charging those from out of town. One option would be to distribute tickets at the schools, or to announce that tickets can be picked up at City Hall.

Musser explained that some of the problems may be due to the space not being used effectively. Despite the tables and activities being spread out through the Creekside area, many people only congregated in the Mill Street area, causing unneeded congestion.

Some discussion occurred about relocating the event to another park. Headley Park and the new Veterans Park were mentioned, though the name of the festival would have to be changed.

Musser also noted that there are new concrete light poles at Creekside. The lights hanging from trees have been removed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Aquatics Advisory Committee

Nothing at this time.

Bicycle & Trail Advisory Committee

Nothing at this time.

Implementation Team

Nothing at this time.

Natural Resources Advisory Committee

Nothing at this time.

Gahanna Parks & Recreation Foundation

Ross explained that the Foundation was currently working on their budget. In addition, the Foundation was struggling with defining the parameters of what exactly the Foundation was, and what they did. Ross also reported that Hops & Vines raised over \$20,000. The Foundation was also considering hiring someone to help them run events and define their mission statement.

Veteran's Memorial Committee

Nothing at this time.

School Board Report

Nothing at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mikala Back, Administrative Assistant

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2015

Eric Miller, Chair