

**CITY OF GAHANNA
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – August 12, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER

Eric Miller called the meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board to order on Wednesday, August 12, 2015, at 7:00 pm at Gahanna City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Cynthia Franzmann
Luke Messinger
Eric Miller
Andy Piccolantonio
Jan Ross
Jill Schuler – 7:05pm
Vincent Tremante - 7:10pm

In attendance from the City Administration was Troy Euton, Director Department of Parks and Recreation and Mike Musser, Deputy Director Department of Parks & Recreation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

June 3, 2015: Ross requested correction on page 2 in the Sledding Hill paragraph, the word trials should read trails. Messinger made a **MOTION** to approve as corrected the minutes from June 3, 2015; seconded by Ross. **On roll call vote:** Franzmann, yes, Messinger, yes, Miller, yes, Piccolantonio, yes, Ross, yes and Schuler, yes. **Motion carried 6 – 0.**

July 8, 2015: Ross requested correction on page 1 in the second paragraph, the word shellfish should read selfish. Miller corrected the name in the first paragraph, Mr. Price is Mr. Preston. Ross questioned a quote by Schuler on page 2, paragraph 9. After discussion added did you submit the plan we had in front of us. Ross requested correction on page 3 in the fourth paragraph, the word trials should read trails. Schuller made a **MOTION** to approve as corrected the minutes from July 8, 2015; seconded by Messinger. **On roll call vote:** Schuler, yes, Messinger, yes, Miller, yes, Piccolantonio, yes, Ross, yes and Franzmann, yes. **Motion carried 6 – 0.**

ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

HEARING OF VISITORS

Miller asked Musser if he was considered a visitor. Musser was attending as Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation.

OLD BUSINESS

BWT Sec. 5 – Update

Euton provided for each member 3 pages including an artist rendering of the new alignment. This is the trail moving forward which Council has approved. It shows the re-alignment. The insets at the bottom of the page show proximity of the trail to the tees and greens. Area 1 is the #1 tee. Area 2 shows the #1 green, #3 green and #4 tee. Council wanted to see how close the areas were to the fence and why the fence was needed. Council passed the trail 6-1 two weeks ago but letters and speakers about the fence caused concern. Council talked about rescinding the approval but after my presentation and discussion, they did not. Everything is moving forward. We are expecting engineer drawings on Monday. Euton is anticipating the contractors starting in September. The goal is for completion by Thanksgiving. The contractor feels it is a 60 day build. Euton talked to Council about fence and trees during the presentation to Council. We are removing 20 to 25 trees. When these trees come down, there will be a whole new wave of phone calls. There is nothing spectacular in the trees we are taking down. There are a couple of large Catawba trees, one already has a broken top. There is a 36 inch Cottonwood tree. There are two large Oaks we will not touch, nor impact. There is a row of trees on the north that we veered out to miss

because we had open ground. We will miss another large Oak tree. The plan shows trees that are not there today. We are planting in the area of the sledding hill on the east side of the trail. We do not feel we need protective fence as it is in an area of low probability of incidence of striking a trail user. We will be planting some deciduous trees and maybe evergreens to provide a tree barrier. This area does get close to the roadway and we will be installing concrete curb and gutter for a few hundred feet to provide a physical barrier for motorist. There will be a 5 foot tree lawn and then the edge pavement for the trail. The trail is the next 10 feet. We will be planting in the 5 foot tree lawn to reforest Ridenour Road. The curb will be standard height similar to subdivision curbs. The Police will no longer tolerate parking on Old Ridenour Road and it will be signed. Depending on the final cost of the project, we will try to put in curb, gutter and sidewalk on down to the South. If we can afford to do this as part of the project we will. If we cannot afford to do this, it will be drawn up and ready to do in the future. We will also be looking at some fence to provide protection there as well. The curb, gutter, signs and enforcement will be the controls of the parking. There will be parking in our lot with paved access to the sledding hill. The contractor on this project is Columbus Asphalt - a Gahanna company. Another change we made in the plans include red and yellow lines. The red line represents the 10 foot tall protective fence with hood over the top. The yellow line represents 8 foot tall chain link fence. The yellow lines are in close proximity to the tees which is protection from line drives and not the high arching balls. We expect the yellow line 8 foot fence to be 55-60% of the cost of the red line 10 foot fence with the hood or maybe less. There is about 400 feet of 8 foot fence which could be a \$20,000 savings compared to the 10 foot high fence.

Miller feels 8 foot fence is high, why not use 6 foot fence. Euton said a tall cyclist on a tall bike could be taller than 6 foot. Musser is taller than 6 foot on his bike. An 8 foot fence is a sure height for anyone to stand up on their bike. An 8 foot fence is standard material.

Messinger ask about the need for a fence in the tree area. Euton stated those trees on the plan are the replanted trees. There will be no trees left in that area. The top of the hill is a 20 foot fill. There will be about 1000 yards of earth brought in, graded and tapered out. Everything to the east of the trail alignment will be cleared out.

Ross ask if October is still within the time frame. Euton stated the end of the year is the grant dead line and we will be fine. The next couple of pages are plan pages to show you more detail and the fill area. The bank on the east side will be put in 2 to 1 and we do not plan to mow the area. It will be planted with native grasses and trees. A 2 to 1 grade is too steep to mow. We need a 4 to 1 or 5 to 1 to mow. A 3 to 1 put the fill out into the rough area plus more fill. We have not seen the final calculation. They are still working on the revised estimate with the changes.

Ross asked since there has been some press on the trails, is there a plan to put something positive as the project moves along. There was an article in the Dispatch where Tony was quoted about the importance of these trails. Ross does not want someone to read this article and wonder if we are debating about the trails. It may be confusing to the uninformed person. Euton stated he did not plan to do anything in the short term. Once the construction starts it will be a good time to do a release. We are updating our website with information about the trail. Euton fears what additional press may bring and wants to get the project started. Euton is open if the Board has a different desire or suggestion.

Miller asked if this is a two month build time. Euton confirmed the two month time. Messinger suggested celebrating success at completion. Euton stated we will not build this without making people unhappy. The first group will have concern when we cut all the trees down. The second group will be the golfers when we start moving earth. There are some rough seas ahead. Euton wants to keep his head down, get started and deal with what comes out. Euton stated he is open to suggestions.

Messinger ask if the short area near the sledding hill will be planted thick enough so people will not be able to ride their bikes down the hill and onto the golf course. A bicycle will be able to ride through. Euton stated we will plan trees for mature life. When planting, it will be on a 20 to 30 foot center and 10 years from now they will be nice full trees. Euton stated we could go back and put in a board fence for control.

Musser asked if the concern was on the #1 fairway and stated we already deal with kids rolling down the hill and bikes. Messinger stated now we have a path with more kids on bikes. Musser said we already have people walking their dogs on the golf course so we will not be surprised by it. Euton stated we will

manage it as it occurs.

NEW BUSINESS

Citizen Initiative: Euton provided updates on the Citizen Initiative for dedicated park funding. They were short on signatures. It was a short time frame to accomplish that and it did not work out. The group is still together and looking at the May ballot. Euton feels this gives the committee time to get more organized and have a successful effort. This effort is still happening and moving forward.

Euton stated the City Attorney sent word there is talk of moving the primary in Ohio to March because Governor Kasich is running for President. The City Attorney indicated the Board of Elections should make a decision in the next week but he is confident after talking to the Board of Elections, the primary will be moved to March. Tremantee stated if Kasich wins the Ohio primary early, it will give him a bump in his strength. If May rolls around and you have not won many primaries, you are off the list. Euton stated the Citizen Initiative Committee's intent is to have the petition drive completed with certified signatures by the end of October. The City Attorney indicated with the primary in March, the signatures will be due the end of December. Piccolantonio confirmed the Ohio primary is set for March 8th. The Senate and House have passed a petition to move the primary to March 15th and it is sitting on the Governor's desk for his signature. Euton stated if it is March 15th, signatures will be due about December 15th. Ross indicated the committee is planning to have all signatures completed well in advance. Euton stated to get the quantity of signatures needed in October should not be stressful. This will give the Committee time to have the signatures certified before they are turned in. Piccolantonio stated that under the GOP National Party Rules, if Ohio holds its primary before March 15th, it is a proportional distribution of delegates. If the primary is moved, the winner will get all of Ohio's delegates which will benefit the Governor.

Ross indicated there should be a good turn-out for the primary election. Miller indicated May's turn out is usually 4,000 to 5,000 voters for Gahanna.

P&R Funding Planning: Euton provided the funding plan presented to the Citizen's Initiative. He asked if this had been presented to this Board. The Board has seen the plan, possibly in Foundation meetings or public meetings for the Initiative. The plan has not changed. It was created in May. Attached to the plan is a written description of the Capital Bonded Projects \$20,000,000 in the upper right hand chart. The left hand box is the Annual Operating dollars received from the Initiative. The \$1,500,000 would pay for the \$20,000,000 Capital. The rest is a break out of the allocations of the \$2,700,000.

Miller asked if a .25% goes toward operational cost. Euton stated a .25% goes toward operational cost on the left in the annual operating but it primarily goes toward the operational cost associated with the new facilities that are bonded on the right hand side. In the operational cost on the left, the big exception would be the special events for the department. Special events are funded in this Annual Operating including a person to run the special events. There are a few full time positions including Park and Facility Techs to help maintain the new stuff and will work on existing stuff as well. The operating is very minimal. Maybe \$300,000 to \$400,000 allocated to operating.

Euton directed the Board to look below the Bonded Projects, at the Annual Operating Capital improvements. Those are miscellaneous park improvements including drainage, furnishings, landscaping, allowing us to up gun the whole system. Land acquisition is the third line. We currently do not have a land acquisition fund. It is important that we do have so when things come up, we have the ability to buy park land, easements, right of ways for trails or park additions. Examples are the Foxwood property and the McCutcheon Road property. In the future there are things that will arise that are good infrastructure investments. We feel it is important to have the funding and have the ability to move when these are presented to us. Next is Rec Support which is event operations including supplies, contracts and a person. General operating support is Department wide across all three divisions in the way of both supplies and labor. Community event support is Blues & Jazz, Boomfest and Holiday Lights. Holiday Lights is struggling. There has been talk about the 4th of July and support for fireworks at the Golf Depot. We are asking Blues & Jazz to pay for all City's services which runs about \$30,000-\$40,000 a year. We do not know the disposition of that for 2016 because the revenues were so low this year due to the weather. There is a CVB Board Meeting tomorrow night. They had a reserve but Euton believes it is wiped out. In the past 4-5 years, the Blues & Jazz Festival has provided \$30,000 to \$50,000 for the Holiday Lights Parade. There will be a lot of decision making and alteration to the historical plan to figure

out how it will be funded. The CVB does not have the money to fund it. They have talked about putting up the Christmas tree and village. This line talks about supporting community events. The Blues & Jazz seems solid but they had a bad year. Parks operation support is staffing, turf care and various operations in the parks. Facilities operations support is a staff person. Aquatics operations support is a staff person. Playground upgrades is an annual renewal of playgrounds and surfacing. The Herb Farm Facility Support that includes an Herb Education Program, garden and whole new area. The new Veterans Parks on Price Road south of St. Matt and the swim club. Around the house and barn we own is a lot of wetlands areas and natural areas. It could become more of a destination area, herb farm, or wedding area. This could become a self-sustaining model similar to Jorgensen Farms with their tents and barns for wedding space, education and production. We are the Herb Capital and have a little garden here and there, at Creekside and scattered around the City. We have an Herb Education Center, the historic house and Gift Shop but this would blow that up and provide a true herb education area for programming, weddings, special events and bus tours. The funding provides for a full time person to run this whole operation including the gardens.

Schuler asked how many FTEs are you adding with this plan. Euton indicated we would be adding 4 new positions. There would be two Parks Tech, a Facilities Tech and the Herbal Position. The Rec Support is staffing that we have but there would be some additional part-time staffing. In 2008, our Special Events Funding was \$150,000. We were doing all kinds of special events including 2nd Saturdays, camping outs and concerts at Friendship Park. This restores all of those types of programs City wide around the calendar year. Special Events was a priority in the survey from the Master Plan, people want to see those special events return. This all talks to our Master Plan update. They are in the top 10 of the Master Plan and that is why they were chosen. Then operationally, we have to run those and make other improvements and capabilities.

Miller understands what the .25% takes care of the part at the top, but his concern is people will think we are getting synthetic turf in our fields and a new club house. Miller asked how much of this is being shared with the public. Euton indicates this is an internal document. Miller asked if this a wish list. Euton states the Long Term Plans are some things that have come up and are not in the plan. We did not want to ignore them. There are other things the citizens have brought forward and they are not funded in this .25% initiative. Miller wants people to understand what is not funded in the plan. Euton states the FAQ brochure that the Citizens put out talks about the things in the box. Ross states it included the last two pages of the handout. Euton thought he may have shared the entire document with petitioners at a training. Ross confirmed only the top part was shared.

Tremante asked about the .25%. There is a concern if we get \$2.7 million, then the City does not need to allocate us a certain budgetary amount. He remembered Tony saying you are going to identify the core services that Parks and Rec provides and the City should pay for separate from all this. Tremante ask if this is your new annual Parks and Rec budget. Euton confirmed this is all enhancement. We currently get \$2.7 out of the general fund and that is all core services – what we do today. This is enhancement to that. There are a few projects in here like the pools. Pools are vital to this community. Hunter's Ridge is OK and the back pool at the Swim Club is OK. The front pool is a year to year thing. Building the aquatics center is an enhancement. Everything here is an enhancement. Everything here operates the new and a few special events including the staffing to cover this stuff. In the Parks Operation Support, there is a fair amount of part-time people in there, as well. Our Parks & Facilities crew is mostly part-time. We have full time Superintendent, 2 Foreman and a City Arborist that are maintaining everything we have currently. There would be in the 250, a number of part-time people, like we have today in Parks and Facilities, to maintain this additional park and field house.

Piccolantonio asked in this plan if there anything that absolutely guarantees that a future City Council cuts the Parks budget in light of the fact we are receiving funds from other sources. If times get tough or for other reasons. Euton states only you are the guarantee. Miller said only the citizens and Ross confirmed that would be good marketing. Euton replied only you can keep parks & rec.

Tremante asked if this is an annual amount coming in. Euton confirmed the \$2.7 is an annual amount from the .25%. Tremante asked if you would be bonding \$1.5 million every year. Euton stated the \$1.5 is the payment for the \$20 million. We would bond \$20 million out of the gate and the \$1.5 would be the pay back.

Ross asked if it is a 20 year. Euton confirmed the .25% is a 20 year deal. Franzmann asked if all this stuff could happen as soon as the bond was issued. Euton confirmed that is correct. Miller asked how did you come up with the \$20 million and if that .25% is based on current income. Miller stated that should increase over time. Euton agreed that both income and expense will increase over time. The future value of money and projected incomes, we got from Finance. This number came from Finance Department, the .25% and \$2.7 million. We have not done long term projections about what income will be and how that will change the \$2.7. The discussion theory is inflation and income will stay together and the .25% will continue to fund the operations of everything we are discussing. Euton stated we are not going to turn money away or throw money away. If income grows at a greater rate than our cost and expenses then we could put that to good use. The other part of this, is that we have not projected what our revenues will be with these facilities. Our revenues should be better than they are today with an aquatics facility and field house. We want revenue to help sustain it, but we also want to provide drop in recreation time. A place for people to go and just play ball. In the winter time, we want people to be able to get inside and be active. We want a fair amount of free time for citizens, but also, offer spaces for rent for organized sports teams. The rent would create revenue to off-set the operating cost. You will see the last item on Annual Operating is the Field House Operations. We put \$100,000 operational cost for the field house. We have not done a thorough study of what that is going to be, but we also know that for it to sustain itself was not realistic. Revenues will help off-set that, but to what percentage, we do not know. We have not gotten into the studies of revenues and increased income and hopefully, we do not have to.

Park Board Responsibilities: Euton passed out Ordinance 153 for everyone to look at for a couple of reasons. The recent activities for the trails have brought up a lot of discussion here at City Hall between departments, employees, Directors and Councilmen. Section 01 and 02 not so much. On page 3, section 153.03, Euton wanted to talk about powers and duties. Our experiences from the July meeting and this whole year with the trail project and how dynamic it was. We had received our environmental clearances through Mad Scientists. We were not seeing any trees or environmental issues that we ask the NRAC to go out. The other trail projects the NRAC had reviewed with a few of you and kept the Board in the loop. Euton has received question about what is the Board's role and why does the Board recommend to Council. The Board recommends to the Mayor. Euton wants the Board to see what is written. More than what has happened in the past, he wanted to talk about the future. Euton thinks what we have experienced in 2015, is the tip of the iceberg when it comes to Big Walnut Trail development specifically Section 4. Section 4 connects Knob Hill to Rivers Edge Drive has private residences all through it. Any alignment will have to negotiate and navigate our way through. The original trail plan for Section 4 went through the back yards of several folks. There are 12-14 homes and they have very deep back yards all the way to the river – several hundred feet deep. The original alignment when we had the open house back in 2007, had the trail going through back yards. Some of those folks came to the open house. A few of them said Wow, that's cool and a few said no way over my dead body, you are not putting a trail on my property. We have developed alternative routes for Section 4, which comes up Knob Hill Drive to McKenna Creek greenway, where we have a side walk and a bridge. It comes on down Cherry Bottom to the old FOP which is now the Stonybrook Church property. We have communicated with the Church a number of times over the years and their master plan for the FOP site facilities us coming through and bridging over. This will be a lot of planning, a lot of public input and a lot of meetings. Section 8 is popping over 270 and going over into Columbus and back into Tech Center Drive. There are a couple of private property owners in this section. The public perception of the bridge over the highway is ok because there are 4-5 bridges now. When we talked about this 3 years ago, we would have been the second and there was concern. This is some years down the road, maybe 3-4-5 years when we are ready to do that section.

The planning process for Section 4 and Section 8 are greater than any other planning processes we have had for other sections. When we look at our sub-committees that this Board has, for example BTAC. Some folks on the BTAC were very upset about Park Board vote. They are a sub-committee and they were not consulted. They were consulted on the trail project all along but what is our value if we meet every month to do new trail development and trail discussion. We are a public meeting. Sometimes people come and sometimes they don't. BTAC's question was why was the Parks Board not made aware of our involvement in this process. Euton may be held accountable because he did not bring BTAC up in his discussion in July or June.

Piccolantonio stated we have discussed it. Piccolantonio is on their email chain and has seen what Charles has said. Euton meant prior to our planning this year. Piccolantonio mentioned prior to our

meeting, we did discuss their thoughts on the plan itself. Euton does not want to focus on the past but looking forward. Miller and Euton have talked about committees in general. The Board should look at our committees. Some are active and some are not. The BTAC is going to be very active this winter when we are planning for Sections 4 or 8. When you look at the powers and duties, there is nothing about subcommittees in here. We have this whole list of subcommittees. Euton is asking does 153.03, cover what this Parks Board is doing. Should there be something added about these subcommittees and their public process and what they are doing. Should be empower or recognize subcommittees officially, by adding it to the powers and duties of the Parks Board, to recognize a subcommittees to focus on improvements and issues. Those recommendations come to this Parks Board. Looking ahead, there are much greater challenges coming at us as a Board.

Tremante asked what need do you see that filling that we do not have now. As a Board, every year we establish whether we want these committees. The Dog Park, for example, was providing no function and went away. The NRAC is an on call service. What would a change provide that we do not have right now? Euton responded the authority to have a subcommittees. Any Board can have a subcommittees, but we have these standing committees. As BTAC moves forward and starts hosting open houses with engineers and designers presenting plans, the Board be invited and attend those meetings. There is nothing written here that gives them structure.

Ross asked if this is in response to the criticisms of the Board not knowing all this. The Board should not be intimately involved, it would be the subcommittee. Euton stated back when we did the Big Walnut Trail Master Plan, you will recall, there were 20-30 people coming to those meetings. It was very, very active. I know many of you were involved in that as well. As we encounter resistance, someone may ask what is BTAC? BTAC is not mentioned in the ordinance. They may say where is the Parks Board? Euton asked should it be in writing that this Board has the authority to appointment subcommittees.

Ross stated if you want to be intimately involved that is the route to do it, so as not to slow the process down. Miller stated we cannot do all this committee work at a Board Meeting. Ross stated as long as the Board knows what is going on in committees, it is the Board's decision on how involved it should be. It is easy for us to say, we did not know what was going on after hours and hours of work going on in the background. Miller asked if BTAC has minutes to their meetings and suggested both this Board and Council should get copies of their minutes.

Euton stated during the last 30 days, in discussions with Council and mentions BTAC, he is asked if there is a Trail Committee and did they look at the trail. Miller stated Council reads our minutes. Euton recommends this Board, a couple times a year, to give an update to Council including Board and subcommittees' action and general movement. Directors do talk about Boards in our reports to Council. Miller stated in the past, someone from this Board would go to council and give a report. Euton does not think it needs to be every meeting but a semi-annual update. Council is inundated with volumes of material to read and we should do something to be more in touch with Council. He also believes we should do more with the committees so the Board is aware and active in actions of the committees. There is nothing in Powers and Duties that talks about subcommittees.

Schuler states that under the rules of order, a board can establish committees and it does not need to be specified in language. Committees do not typically take action. They give recommendations to the bodies that have the authority to do things. If it is the will of the body to have an advisory committee, it is the prerogative of the board, without specifying authority.

Messinger's example is NRAC recommends not to remove a tree for conservation purposes. When Tremante presents it to the Board and it does not supersede the Board to vote to precede to remove the tree.

Ross stated that we give informal updates. It would have helped us to have had a formal recommendation from BTAC. It was a criticism when Mr. Preston was here and where are the Bike People. The thought was the Bike People were not do anything. It was not all brought together.

Miller stated we have a committee that represents the bikes and the Board represents a broader picture in Parks. Piccolantonio states with all due respect, the BTAC is a biased group. Ross states that so are the golfers. Schuler states we are the Board. Messinger states his appointment is to recommend to the

Mayor so let's look at this from a broader context and perspective. Schuller does want people on BTAC that will fight for their bike trails.

Messinger's states BTAC got their section of trail. As a Board, we recommended massaging this a bit. We did not say stop the trail. Our recommendations as a Board was to massage it and now you vote on it. Schuler states that is what Council ask us to do and they voted on it. Schuler states that we do not need explicit authority, if we want subcommittees, we can establish it.

Ross comments that BTAC does not have any authority. Schuler states none of the subcommittees do, they only make recommendations to the body that has the authority to do anything. We can have as many committees as we want. Miller said the goal was to have a group of people that see the connectivity of the City on the bike trail perspective. Messinger wants BTAC to give us their advice and we will do the best we can to preserve and conserve these natural resources. Sometimes progress goes on anyway. Miller states we do vote on committees every January and Ross agreed. Ross said BTAC has done a lot of work and that may be the missing link.

Euton ask if we need a procedure for bringing things forward. Ross stated it has not been an issue before. When Euton reflects on 3 or 4 weeks ago and is looking at documents, he is trying to reconcile in my own soul, where we need to go in the future so we do not get down this road again. This is Euton's point in bringing this discussion forward. There is a Board member represented on a lot of these committees. Some of these committees do not meet. Euton wanted to discuss with this Board where we are. He is not recommending to change anything but wants to understand what the role is of the committees. We are relying on ourselves to go to their meetings and report back. Should be ask people on these committees to come to another meeting? Should we present the minutes of their meetings every month?

Messinger recommends rules of operations for the committees. The committees are expected to communicate as this level. Committee Reports should be bumped up on the agenda and move Correspondence down. He added the Poll for comments should be at the end. We need to give Committees the time it needs. We should come up with 3 or 4 things on what we expect from these committees. We need to set the expectations of committees.

Tremante asked if we have set expectations. Euton confirmed we have rules of operations for the committees and the chair. There are rules of operations for the Parks Board. We need to look at our role and what we want the committees to tell us. Tremante remembers BTAC was getting so big and so many people that it need a frame work and a structure to manage the group. There were 3 major topics they were given and this was their charge. This is what we need you to do – maybe it was connectivity or the Master Plan. Tremante ask if we did this for the others but maybe they do not meet as frequently or as many participants.

Miller asked if Council objects to the Board having committees. Euton answered that no one objects to committees. Messinger ask Euton to help the Board identify the context and feedback he is receiving from Council. What can this Board do to help to make Euton's job easier and provide recommendations to the Mayor. Euton is the crucial partner.

Euton states he is thinking about trails primarily. Trails is a priority of the department whether the Initiative is successful or not. The Master Plan and citizens supports building trails. BTAC is where we need to make sure the lines of communication are open including participation. This would include reporting from them to you. From a staff perspective, if this Board makes Council aware of these subcommittees and what they are doing – a 5 minute presentation maybe a couple times a year.

Miller stated we stopped going to Council because they did not want Boards coming to meetings. Council gets bogged down. Euton stated that new Council does not know what goes on in the subcommittees. Over the last 5 years, communication has only occurred in an informal or side conversational way. The BTAC committee is big. Ross added the Aquatics is going to get big, also. Messinger asked if we need Veterans Memorial Committee. Franzmann stated the committee meets twice a year to report what they are going to have and the speaker. Schuler suggested we do a self-evaluation and ask can we do better. What is necessary and what do we rebuild.

Miller ask if newer Council members go through an orientation program. Euton confirmed new Council members do meet a few hours with each Directors.

Euton thinks these committees are valuable and important. They do a lot of good work. We need to push that work forward and share what is going on. Messinger encouraged Euton to put his fingerprint on this Board to help guide us. We are changing horses in mid-stream because a lot of this was from Tony's direction. For example, the Veterans Memorial Committee does not need representation and could easily be reported on by staff.

Franzmann stated the Aquatics Advisory was always the Aquatics Director that was leading. It was different than BTAC because it had a staff member on the committee. Euton stated the Director attends BTAC and he will be attending BTAC meetings along with the City Engineer. There are a lot of engineering projects that are transportation related. It is Bicycle and Trail Advisory Committee. In the past it was BAC – Bicycle Advisory Committee. BTAC changed their name and the change was reported out.

Euton states we as a staff can do more to communicate and link everybody together. As we go forward, both BTAC and Aquatic will get busier and busier. Messinger reflects on those two committees and the level of activity increases 10 fold. Miller mentions the budget allocations pools and trails alone is a whole new game including the difficulties with engineering and property acquisitions that are taking place.

Tremante asks if the BTAC and Aquatics Advisory have their own elected structure with a vice-chair and secretary. Euton confirms that they do. The Aquatics Advisory has not met this year. They met last fall when there was discussion about not funding pools. There was a group of citizens that formed their own group to support pools. They hosted a 5K and raised \$3,000 - \$4,000. Musser confirmed the Aquatics Advisory Committee was formed when we took over the operations of the Gahanna Swim Club. The Committee was a requirement the Pool Board wrote into the acquisition of the property. We continue to have the Committee with part of their Board and our staff. Over the years, we have come up with rules and regulations. The Committee has died out because the recommendation was to build a new pool and we have had no movement on a new pool. The Committee was originally formed for the transition piece for the Swim Club.

Miller ask if Euton should have a conversation with the City Attorney as to whether we need something in the By Laws about committees. Euton will consult the City Attorney. Ross states we need to do a better job linking the communication. We have people working really hard on these committees putting their heart and soul in the projects. They should be presenting their information. Miller suggested we add something about from time to time committees are appointed on an as needed basis to assist the Board. Schuler states the authority existed without the expressed authority to do it. Piccolantonio mentions we do not want to put more in than we need. An example is Council wants to know what the Parks Board thinks and we advise to the Mayor. Council has over the years, has leaned on us for advice. Some of us are appointed by Council. Euton is looking ahead particularly with trails. There may be more contested trails than we have seen. Euton does not want to be in a position where there is some public contention and ask who is BTAC and why do they exist. They are not recognized in the structure of the City. Why are they the ones working on the plan?

Franzmann reminded the Board, BTAC is not making the decisions. They are only making recommendations. Schuler states that because they do not know about it does not mean it cannot exist. Miller mentions the role of Parks Board has changed over the past 10 years. If we get a new Aquatics Center and a Field House, things will change. All confirmed, the Board needs to work to link lines of communication.

Piccolantonio has asked BTAC to call and meet him with updates to bring back to the Board. He wants to know the chairs overall thoughts about the meetings. Tremante wants to encourage the subcommittees to come in and make reports including sending in their minutes. Euton would like to see their minutes as they occur. Piccolantonio mentioned his role on the BTAC is to listen and report to the Board an unbiased view of what he heard at their meetings. He is not a cheerleader for anything. Tremante mentioned the BTAC are cheerleaders for the trails. Euton mentions the duties of the committees transform over time depending on activity.

Tremante asked if the committee is providing input to a process that is going to happen and it does not feedback through this Board, then it is as though they have the authority to be doing or saying things that will effect changes. How much of their interactions are effecting the trail. Are they assisting with the layout and where things should be placed. Euton confirmed that it was BTAC recommendations used for the design and grants for the next section. It was their recommendation for the structure for Safe Routes To School. The City Engineer has gotten information from BTAC. Tremante asked if that information should come to this Board. Ross confirms that is the point. Euton states BTAC does not exist expect as a subcommittee of this Board. Ross states BTAC was created to help with this project moving forward. Messenger mentioned if we had a Golf Course Committee, they would be against the trail. We would need to listen to both the Trail Committee and the Golf Committee. Ross mentions the BTAC came about as a result of the Master Plan including the commitment made to the trails. Tremante repeated that BTAC recommendations should come to us not the Director, Mayor or staff.

Musser mentions that BTAC is making recommendations to the City Engineer where side walk should be in the City. This issue is not under Parks and Recreation. This issue is Service and Engineering. You all have formed a committee that is giving recommendations to the City Engineer for sidewalks. They are operating outside of the box. Schuler indicates this is a good thing. BTAC is a resource. Euton states BTAC has researched hazard spots including accident reports from the police. BTAC has had several open houses for people to dot maps. Piccolantonio was unaware of the BTAC open houses. Euton stated they developed a list, 5 years ago, of segments of lapsed connectivity. BTAC has 3 pages of projects that need to be done in the City to help with connectivity. BTAC researches these both on bikes and on foot. BTAC is an active group and their size fluctuates with activity. Piccolantonio asked if we should approve their agendas. Franzmann asked if they could be like any citizens group that came to the Parks Department. BTAC has given great recommendations and we should let them be.

Euton emphasis what is broken is the lines of communication between this Board and the committees and between this Board and Council. Maybe that is our failure and the process or organization should be at the forefront. Tremante ask Euton to review the operation procedures. Miller asked if we should put on our agenda information about the committees so we know what their purpose it and what they are doing. Ross stated we do this every January. Tremante was not aware that BTAC had minutes and we were not getting them. We should evaluate all our committees. Euton is not suggesting to do anything before January. He wants to evaluate the roles, procedures, missions and structures of the committees and be rock solid rolling into 2016. We need to be ready for big debates and our system will not be undermined.

Piccolantonio states if we created these subcommittees, we can say they will or won't bring recommendations to us. Ross stated we set up this committees to provide valuable information so we would not have to do the work. Franzmann adds they are by passing us and getting to the people who need the information. Piccolantonio ask if BTAC should be going to Council. Euton confirmed they are attending Council meetings as citizens. BTAC has not made a recommendation. Several of their members have sent letters. No action at this time, just think about it moving forward. Let us work on the communication.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS

None

DIRECTORS REPORT

Euton shared good news and updates occurring after the June meeting. Council has passed legislation to purchase the McCutheon Road property. Then we were stuck. The Church's attorney gave them authority to negotiate but the Church was not out of the contract. The intent of the Church was to go back to the developer and get out of the contract. The Church was waiting for the contract to expire at the end of this year. The Church called and they are free of the contract. The Church is ready to sign with us and must close by October 31st. We are contacting a surveyor and should close in the next 60 days on the park site. It is an installment plan, paying \$200,000 down this year then the balance is split the next two years. The legislation is up to 8 acres at \$80,000 per acre for up to \$640,000. We have no particular plan at this time. With the Citizens Initiative we will have a nice park. Schuler asked what would be in the park. Miller replied there was a conceptual plan for a water park. Tremante asked about the parcel and where is the 7 ½ acres. Euton stated it is a big U-shaped. The Church kept the right hand drive and the main parking lot. Tremante asked if we will have use of the parking lot. Euton replied that is yet to be

determined. We are not expecting a lot of car traffic. The neighborhood is underserved in this area and this is a much needed park. It is a great opportunity.

Piccolantonio asked about a small park on Stygler across from Imperial with a bench and gazebo. Euton said there is a new development plan and that park will be a roadway.

Pam Ripley is out on leave for 6-12 weeks.

Shannon is leaving on maternity leave.

Beth, our part-time public information officer, is going out on maternity leave.

Brooke Weisenberger just left.

Parks is struggling a bit. Mike and Troy are covering 3 positions. Camps are closed and had a good year. The Gahanna Swim Club is closed. Hunter's Ridge is open evenings and weekends. Parks and Rec had a good summer. Revenues were not that great because of weather. Golf will be close even with the bad weather.

Tremante asked if pool revenues are affected by schools starting early. Euton stated the weeks of operation are fairly consistent at 10 or 11 weeks. Musser stated depending on when Memorial Day and Labor Day fall, we could have an extra week. It could also shorten the time frame. The challenge this year was all the rain. The weather had a bigger effect on us than the school year. School will be out before Memorial Day next year and we have never opened before Memorial Day. We rely on high school and college kids to run our pools. We are currently discussing how we will manage it.

Schuler stated the calendar committee for the Board of Education will meet in September or October. For the first time this year, we will have parent representation on the committee. The calendar was changed so the high school kids would finish the semester before Christmas Break. Instead of coming back for 2 weeks, then taking finals. It was felt that this schedule would be better for academics. Ross stated it matches the college schedules. Schuler has had more complaints about the schedule. It seems we had 3 weeks of summer.

Tremante commented the big news was the gaga ball pit. The pit is at Hannah. Everyone was ticked when it was closed to install the padding. Musser described the pit as a set of walls similar to hockey rink walls. The walls were about \$4,000. Schuler indicated the PTO built one at Jefferson. It is a wood frame.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Aquatics Advisory Committee

Franzmann reported the pools are closed.

Bicycle & Trail Advisory Committee

Piccolantonio has not received notice of next meeting. Euton reported the next meeting is August 24th at 6:00 pm. It is the 4th Monday of every month. The last communication Piccolantonio received was in June.

Implementation Team

Miller report the Implementation Team is meeting next month and then, not again, until after the first of the year.

Natural Resources Advisory Committee

Tremante had no report. Euton mentioned all the tree removal have been assessed by Mad Scientist. We are not removing any bad habitat trees. Everything is past phase one and non-habitat except a big black willow tree. We are not tearing it down at the Golf Course for the trail.

Ross asked who is taking trees down around the wires on our street. Musser replied that we do not do any utility trimming.

MEMBERS COMMENTS

Gahanna Parks & Recreation Foundation

Ross reported Hops & Vines is September 19th. Tickets are \$40 until the day of the event. This year we

have 10 or 12 breweries. We do have tasting cups with lines so we do not over pour. You will receive 13 tickets. Musser is expecting two cups, one being clear so as to see the beer. The Foundation is still looking for donations. There will be a Chinese raffle with 10-12 items. The live auction will be 3 bike racks. There are whimsical. They look like a tandem bike, a flower and a dog. There will be naming rights to those. We ask BTAC where they would like to see the racks. The Foundation will decide next week on the Fund-a-Need. The Foundation is asking this Board for help with the Fund-a-Need auction. Creekside Live have been rough this year because of the weather.

Veteran's Memorial Committee

Franzmann reported the will be an activity on Memorial Day. There are no specific plans yet.

School Board Report

Schuler reported school has stated and things are rolling. Maybe someone should come to indicate the school schedule does impact Parks & Recreation schedules. Parks & Rec does adjust according to the school schedule.

Tremante had a question regarding his past service on the Landscape Board. I remember approving all the trees along Hamilton Road north of Johnstown Road. At that time, we did not have a utility plan and did not know we were planting trees under the poles. The trees are all cut down now. His question was is that because of impacting the utilities. Euton answered yes but it was a contractor that cut those down. Aspen offered to take the trees down instead of trimming. The big trees were removed and the small ones stayed. Service is working to grind out all the stumps. We do plan to replant the street trees. Musser indicated the stumps would be ground out by the end of October. Our staff will remove all the irrigation heads. We will then put a plan together to replant the street trees. Hopefully, using trees from the OSU study that is located at the on ramps of 270. We will look to see what we can reuse and fit that area. We will then purchase and plant the rest. The grant funds did not cover the cost of relocating the trees. Some of the trees are 3-4 inches in caliber.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Ross made a **MOTION** to adjourn. The Board meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Ballenger, Human Resources Assistant

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2015

Eric Miller, Chair