

**CITY OF GAHANNA
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES –May 4, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cynthia Franzmann called the meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board to order on Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at 7:03 pm at Gahanna City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Cynthia Franzmann
Luke Messinger
Eric Miller
Laurel Naegele
Jan Ross
Jill Schuler
Vincent Tremante

In attendance from the City were Tony Collins, Director, Troy Euton, Deputy Director and Mike Musser, Recreation Superintendent, Department of Parks & Recreation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Messinger made a **MOTION** to approve the March 2, 2011 meeting minutes; seconded by Naegele. **On roll call vote:** Messinger, Yes, Miller, Yes, Naegele, Yes, Ross, Yes, Schuler, Yes, Tremante, Yes, and Franzmann, Yes. **The motion carried.**

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

New Business – Military Discount Policy

HEARING OF VISITORS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing at this time

NEW BUSINESS

Gahanna Historical Society

Christy Evans made a presentation to the board regarding The Big Walnut Country Club. Evans has spent over a year researching the history of The Big Walnut Country Club which dates back to the 1920's. The Big Walnut Country Club was one of the first African American Country Clubs in the United States. The founders of the club were some of the most prominent and influential African American men in Columbus, Ohio. It is unclear exactly when and why the Big Walnut Country club ceased operation. By 1970 the land was owned by the City of Gahanna, who opened Friendship Park as its first city park in 1971. Additional information can be found on the Gahanna Historical Society web site.

Year End Report – Recreation Division

Mike Musser, Recreation Superintendent, presented the 2010 Recreation Division year in review. Overall the Recreation Department had a very successful year. Some of the highlights for 2010 were; over 3,500 participants registered for programs and activities. Revenue for 2010 increased over 2009.

The summer camp program saw 1304 camper weeks with 128% operating recovery. There

were 24 summer concerts, with over 6,600 people in attendance, 13 scheduled special events attended by over 13,500 people.

Paddle boats have been very successful over 7,000 people experienced the paddle boats. The pool memberships decreased however the weekly passes and daily visits increased. The pool and golf course revenues saw an increase over the previous year.

The Ohio Herb Education Center had an increase in programs, tours, visitors and revenue.

The Senior Center had 590 members. The center had many successful special events and trips. The income tax program assisted with 553 tax returns. There were over 7,000 volunteer hours at the center.

The 2010 expenses totaled \$1,303,243.04 revenue totaled \$1,050,410.29 for a net of \$252,832.75.

Military Discount

Collins shared that a request was received asking for the 20% Military Discount to be taken off the early bird rate which is already discounted by 25%. Musser stated staff researched the discount from the previous years and the discount has always been off of the regular rate.

The board discussed the fee schedule and discounts and agreed all discounts should be taken off of the regular rate and not off of a discounted rate.

Messinger made a **MOTION** to extend the 20% Military Discount on top of the best advertised rate; seconded by Tremante. **On roll call vote:** Naegele, No, Ross, No, Schuler, No, Tremante, No, Franzmann, No, Messinger, No, and Miller, No. **Motion failed 7 - 0.**

Cell Tower

Collins stated that a cell tower request has been received. A recommendation is needed from the Board in regards to a tower being placed in Lower McCorkle Park or the northern golf course area. Collins stated the contract for the tower has not been negotiated.

The Board discussed the placement of the tower in Lower McCorkle Park or the northern golf course area.

Tremante made a **MOTION** to recommend locating a cell tower at Lower McCorkle Park or the northern golf course area; seconded by Miller. **On roll call vote:** Tremante, No, Franzmann, Yes, Messinger, No, Miller, No, Naegele, Yes, Ross, No and Schuler, No. **Motion failed 5 - 2.**

The Board recommended that the tower not be located in at Lower McCorkle Park or the northern golf course area.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Collins shared that the Gahanna Junior League Football has not been in compliance with the city field use agreement. Staff contacted the league to let them know that they would no longer be allowed to play on city owned fields. The league has been in non-compliance for several years. They have not been responding to calls or request. There have been a number of complaints over the last couple of years. Only 20% of the league has been residents.

Staff reached out to a couple community members about establishing a new youth football

league. The League has changed their board and has requested a probationary year. By June 15, 2011 they have to show that 80% of their older league and 90% of their younger league are residents of Gahanna. The league has to be in full compliance with the City Field Use agreement in order to continue the league.

Tim Pack was appointed as the new Council member and has committed not to run for the seat in November.

At the May 9, 2011 Council meeting Angel Mumma, Finance Director, will present the cities first quarter financial update. The spring budget was submitted. It does not include any staff increases or capital projects.

Collins stated that the house at 110 Mill Street was purchased. Prior to purchasing the property we researched the documents in our files and spoke with someone at the Ohio Historical Society and found out there were no historical restrictions on the renovation of the house.

A title search of the closing documents it was discovered that there are covenants on the property. When the owner Mrs. Patton passed she gave it to the Ohio Historical Society (OHS); when OHS sold it there was an historical covenant put on the property. This covenant requires any remodeling to conform to the Secretary of the Interiors remodeling requirements when it comes to the house. It was also discovered that Mrs. Patton left money with The Columbus Foundation to go toward the preservation of the house. The funds go to the Ohio Historical Society who have committed to working with the City to restore the house.

There are two other important factors; if the city establishes a historical preservation code it opens up other funding possibilities for restoring, maintaining and interpretive education programming for our center and also the Gahanna Historical Society settlement.

A community meeting was held for the residents along Clark Street to discuss the 181 Granville Rd. property purchase and the Roby building on the corner of S. High Street and Granville Rd.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Aquatics Advisory Committee

Nothing at this time

BAC

Naegele stated the next committee meets every other month. Collins stated the bike route signage continues to be installed; all five routes should be posted by the end of the summer. Once completed a bike route map will be available. There is a new Adopt – A – Foot bike trail program; the first sponsorship pitch was made last week.

NRAC

Nothing at this time

MEMBERS COMMENTS

Parks & Recreation Foundation

The Foundation has committed to the 2011 Freedom Festival.

The “Friday after Five” committee continues to plan the event. The event will promote the arts in Gahanna. The event will take place on Friday, September 9, 2011 at Creekside Plaza and the lower lagoon area. Save the date cards will be sent out soon.

Veterans Memorial Committee

Memorial Day Dedication is on Monday, May 30, 2011 at 1pm at Veterans Memorial Park.

School Board Report

Schuler stated that the levy passed and with the cuts previously made and retirements some of the teachers who were previously laid off were brought back. The Board meets next week. The entire first floor of Clark Hall has been rented out. The RFP has been released for the additional two buildings on the property. The buildings will provide addition income from land leases.

Tremante would like to see directional signs in and out of Friendship Parks and shared concerns of the music at the Gahanna Swimming Pool. Collins stated he has spoken to the Recreation Supervisor who will set a policy on volume and the station that is permitted.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Parks & Recreation Board at this time, Messinger made a **MOTION** to adjourn.

The Parks & Recreation Board meeting adjourned at 9:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Crossmock, Administrative Assistant

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2011

Cynthia Franzmann, Chair