

**CITY OF GAHANNA  
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD  
MINUTES – June 1, 2011**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Cynthia Franzmann called the meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board to order on Wednesday, June 1, 2011 at 7:03 pm at Gahanna City Hall.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**Absent:** Vincent Tremante – via Skype

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Ross made a **MOTION** to approve the May 4, 2011 meeting minutes; seconded by Schuler. **On roll call vote:** Messinger, Yes, Miller, Yes, Naegele, Yes, Ross, Yes, Schuler, Yes, and Franzmann, Yes. **The motion carried 6 – 0.**

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Old Business – Senior Center Advisory Board Appointment  
New Business – Pass discount request

**HEARING OF VISITORS**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

Senior Center Advisory Board Appointment  
Collins stated that Mike Musser, Recreation Superintendent is requesting to appoint Susan Jeffries to the Senior Center Advisory Board.

Miller made a **MOTION** to appoint Susan Jeffries to the Senior Center Advisory Board; seconded by Naegele. **On roll call vote:** Naegele, Yes, Ross, Yes, Schuler, Yes, Franzmann, Yes, Messinger, Yes, and Miller, Yes. **The motion carried 6 – 0.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Aquatics Advisory Committee meeting**

Collins stated that at the next meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2011 at 5:30pm at the Gahanna Swimming Pool. Over the last couple of years the condition of the front pool has been discussed and now with the financial situation the city faces staff feels that it would be helpful to educate people who are interested in the process of how the city would go about planning and designing a new facility. What cost would be associated and what the wants are. It was suggested to bring in a consultant to meet with the committee to present the typical process, give examples of peer cities and how they operate their pools with net proceeds and how they have designed the pools to accommodate those needs. And give examples of success stories and challenges. A representative from Brandstetter Carroll will attend the July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting to

make the presentation. Collins invited the Parks & Recreation Board to attend the meeting.

### **Pass Discount Request**

Collins stated that a resident is requesting consideration regarding the rate he must pay to add his two children to a season pass at the Gahanna Pool. He and his fiancé are Lifetime Fitness members and receive a Gahanna Swimming Pool membership for \$5 each. He feels the pass is equivalent to a couples pass and is requesting to purchase a pass for his two children for \$5 which is the difference that appears to be the going full rate for adding two kids to a couples pass. He is not asking for the discounted rate of \$5 that Lifetime members get as the children are not Lifetime members. He is asking to pay what appears to be the fair going rate for adding the children.

Collins stated that the Lifetime members are considered a separate type of membership; they are counted and tracked separate from all other memberships. The past couple of years if someone is not on the Lifetime membership and the family member want to join the pool they have purchased the appropriate pass.

The Board discussed the request and decided that the Lifetime Fitness pool memberships are considered a separate category of individual membership and is not considered to be part of our pricing decisions. It was also discussed that other Lifetime Fitness Members have already purchased additional pool memberships and upgrades not just this year, but in the past 2 years as well. They felt it was unfair to discount one and no one else.

Ross mad a **MOTION** to accept the Lifetime membership pass discount request; seconded by Franzmann. **On roll call vote:** Ross, No, Schuler, No, Franzmann, No, Messinger, No, Miller, No, and Naegele, No. **MOTION FAILED 0 – 6.**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Collins shared the financial updates from the department. The pool membership sales are ahead of 2010. The golf course is a big concern, due to the weather the golf course is behind in revenue from 2010. Staff is working on reducing cost at the course.

Collins stated that July is Parks and Recreation month for Ohio Parks & Recreation Association and National Recreation & Parks Association. Collins stated is planning this year's event and invite our State Legislators, Council, and the public. If the Board has any recommendations forward them to Collins.

Collins stated the Ohio Department of Natural Resources notified the city that they are not funding the Clean Ohio Trail Fund this year. The city will be eligible for it next year. The city and the township applied jointly for a Scenic Byways Grant and were notified the grant was not received. It was not granted; due to not enough benefit demonstrated to the traveler on byway from the addition of the path. The byways program is focused on the driver on the road.

Collins stated that Karen Eylon, CVB Director presented to Council their quarterly report and a study that was completed by Don Schumocher and Associates; which is a sport marketing management consulting firm. The CVB paid for the study which looked at the ability for Gahanna to host tournaments. The firm talked with the schools, and the league commissioners about what facilities we have available and what tournaments are already being hosted. The economic driver that is hosting a sports tournaments and the money that comes in from tournaments a lot of communities that are taking advantage of this and building their facilities or improving their facilities based on this. The study completed supports a lot of that investment.

Collins stated there is a lot of opportunity in Gahanna now, the National Bicycle League (NBL) and the American Bicycle League which is BMX racing have merged and have their office in Gahanna at Creekside. They would like to build a course in Gahanna that would host national and international races. The potential economic impact would be \$5 million per year. The report from the study show it is a good investment for the community if it can be figured out where to build the course. The reason it affects the city is the NBL are looking for a park location to put the track.

Currently the city does not have a site that is best suited for track like this. Euton stated the capital investment for the track and infrastructure is about \$500,000. The starting gates are historically 40' tall. Now that BMX is an Olympic Sport the starting gates are increasing to 80' tall. The steel structure is about \$150,000 to \$200,000. The track is dirt and asphalt. This is a big family sport where all ages can participate. The preliminary discussions have been if the track is built at a public park the course would be open for public access when practice or competitive events were not taking place.

Collins stated that the economic impact of tournaments are incredible, unfortunately our facilities cannot keep up with the current recreational use let alone hosting tournaments. The report lists the top three sports as BMX, soccer and girls softball. They are listed in order of either feasible or most impact. The BMX is approximately \$500,000 plus land, a softball complex is at least \$2 million to build.

Collins shared that there have been some staffing changes in the City. Terry Emery is leaving and Dottie Franey will be the Service Director, Mike Andrako will be the Deputy Service Director. A request has gone to Council to reorganize the department and not hire for the Assistant City Engineer but hire a Project Administrator which would help out all the departments out a lot through construction project administration. Alan Little will be leaving the department and has accepted a position with the City of Worthington.

Collins stated that the city is participating in a project along with Ohio State University, ODOT and Bird Houk. The project is a salt tolerance study of over 600 trees that are a salt tolerant tree. There are a variety of hybrid species and the trees are currently being planted.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Aquatics Advisory Committee**

Next meeting June 15, 2011 at Gahanna Swimming Pool

### **BAC**

Meeting cancelled. Collins stated the bike signs have been installed.

### **NRAC**

Tremante shared that once the bridge is set and the final grading is completed all the tree seeds gathered in the fall will be planted. Volunteers are needed to plant.

## **MEMBERS COMMENTS**

### **Parks & Recreation Foundation**

Collins stated that over \$20k has been raised for the fireworks. There has been write ups in the local news and The Columbus Dispatch, the Mayor has been interviewed. Entry way signs will be put up in a couple of weeks.

The Foundation is running the "Jog for Jazz" and will receive some of the proceeds from the race. The information is on the Foundation's Facebook page.

**Veterans Memorial Committee**

Collins stated the event went very well. A total of 28 bricks were dedicated.

**School Board Report**

Schuler stated graduation is June 4, 2011, over 700 students are graduating. The incoming freshman class is over 800 students.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

The Parks & Recreation Board meeting adjourned at 8:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pam Crossmock, Administrative Assistant

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011

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Cynthia Franzmann, Chair