

**CITY OF GAHANNA  
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD  
MINUTES – August 3, 2011**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Cynthia Franzmann called the meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board to order on Wednesday, August 3, 2011 at 7:07 pm at Gahanna City Hall.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Cynthia Franzmann  
Luke Messinger  
Laurel Naegele  
Jan Ross  
Jill Schuler  
Vincent Tremante – arrived 7:14pm

**Absent:** Eric Miller

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Naegele made a **MOTION** to approve the June 1, 2011 meeting minutes; seconded by Messinger. **On roll call vote:** Messinger, Yes, Naegele, Yes, Ross, Yes, Schuler, Yes, and Franzmann, Yes. **The motion carried 5 – 0.**

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

New Business – Donation request  
Giant Eagle/Woods of Shagbark Retention Basin

**HEARING OF VISITORS**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

Trail Update

Euton shared that the BWT Section 7 trail dedication was well attended. BWT Section 1 & 2 from Morse Road south through Academy Park and down the hill to Woodside Green Bridge is getting underway. Columbus Asphalt won the bid for construction.

Euton stated that Section 8 is proposed to run under the I-270 Bridge and tie into Tech Center Drive at Hamilton Road. The Department wrote a grant and was awarded attributable funding from ODOT to help fund the project. The estimates for the project were around \$680,000.

ODOT has been working with Structure Pointe for a planning and improvement study of their work that's underway on I-270 from the Big Walnut Bridge to Broad Street. The City hired Structure Pointe to work on alternative routes for Section 8. They looked at going under the north and south side of the bridge at I-270 and the impact of both. Their estimate is around \$2 million with \$960,000 being construction costs. The administrative cost is around \$1 million.

ODOT and Parks staff walked the alignment and said that the trail cannot go under the bridge. For the trail to be under the bridge it has to be below the ordinary high water mark for even a

five year high water event and would have to be closed during high water events. They will only entertain the City building a bridge over I-270. The project has been turned over to the City Engineer Department who will pursue looking under the bridge and over the highway bridge with ODOT and the funding partners.

### **Volunteer Appreciation Day**

Euton stated the Board previously discussed a way to recognize those who volunteer for the department. Naegele wants to see the volunteers recognized in some way. The Board discussed several options. The Board would like a thank you letter.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Staffing**

Euton stated that several changes in staffing have occurred; Parks Superintendent Alan Little resigned and went to another City; Mike Musser is now the Parks/Facilities Superintendent; Shannon Clonch has been promoted to Recreational Superintendent; Kate Mattison has been promoted to Recreational Supervisor. The Recreation Specialist events position is currently posted.

#### **Gahanna Parks & Recreation Foundation Request**

Naegele stated that she is on the Foundation Friday after Five committee and the Foundation is requesting of the Department of Parks & Recreation a donation of; a three hour rental for an art class at the Golf Course Clubhouse, a Birthday Party Package, a Golf Membership, a Family Pool Membership, two Senior Pool Memberships, a Single Pool Membership, Individual golf passes, a four-hour shelter rental for a "Paint and Take Pumpkin" party in October, individual pool passes, Hannah Park shelter rental, paddle boat passes and Gahanna Promo items.

After some discussion the Board has authorized the following donations:

- 3-hour Golf Course Clubhouse rental
- 1 Birthday Party Package
- 1 Golf Membership
- 1 Family Pool Membership
- 2 Senior Pool Memberships
- 1 Single Pool Membership
- Individual golf passes
- 4-hour shelter rental at Woodside Green in October – subject to availability
- Individual pool passes
- 4-hour shelter rental – subject to availability
- Paddle Boat passes
- Gahanna Promo items

Tremante made a **MOTION** to approve the above donations for the Gahanna Parks & Recreation Foundation "Friday after Five" event; seconded by Franzmann. **On roll call vote:** Naegele, Yes, Ross, Yes, Schuler, Yes, Tremante, Yes, Franzmann, Yes, Messinger, Yes. **The motion carried 6 – 0.**

#### **Giant Eagle/Woods at Shagbark Retention Basin**

Euton explained that there is land by Giant Eagle and the Woods at Shagbark Condos that is from a land dedication. The land has always been used as a retention basin that McKenna Creek empties into. McKenna Creek has a lot of flooding issues. The Engineering Department has been working for several years on the creek and tributaries with URS, the erosion and flooding is getting closer to the homes along the creek. It has been recommended that the retention basin be modified by allowing McKenna Creek to empty into the basin. Engineering

would like to expand the basin to store more water and hold water that is coming down McKenna Creek. The modification that Engineering has can reduce the flow of McKenna Creek by 40%. It is not a 100% fix, but it will improve the flow. There has been some contention with the residents of the Woods at Shagbark over the expansion of the retention basin. Residents are concerned about the removal of some trees. Council has approved Engineering to move forward with the project. The project is currently out to bid. Engineering and URS are working on minimizing the loss of trees and the negative impact to the residents.

It was recently discovered that the land was accepted as Park Land Dedication; to the best of Director Collins knowledge it has always been used as a retention basin; Parks has never maintained the land. Administration requested that the Parks & Recreation Board be informed of the project. Collins has reviewed the project and has responded to the Zoning Department that he has no objections to the property being used as it has always been used as a storm water basin. The Parks Department doesn't have any objections to modifications to the basin to help reduce peak flows and flooding on McKenna Creek. The modifications of the basin around the surface could possibly be graded and a mowed path added for the residents. Also, maybe some wild flowers or a rain garden could be added to make it a more natural setting.

Euton stated Collins would like the Board to consider a resolution of support for the continued use of the land for storm water. Euton said that this is a storm water project and funded from that account. Messenger asked that if by adding a trail and plantings does it commits the department to maintaining the land? Euton stated that Collins has suggested that the grading be such that it is only a grass path that could be mowed. Tremante wanted to know if the stream would be impacted by the project. Euton stated that his understanding is that water will be diverted from the stream to the new basin.

Messenger restated for clarification that the Board would be supporting the expansion of the basin and the potential expanded use of the park area with wild flowers, rain garden and any other beautification. Tremante stated that it really can't be separated to agree to the continued use of the proper and that the basin is acceptable and not have it be in support of the project. Tremante believes it is highly appropriate that the Board recommend that the features be added. Tremante would like to see a basin that has a shallow shelf around it and planted with wetland plants to keep it nice looking and safe. Tremante doesn't mind the land being used the same, but would like to see the features added. Messenger agrees with the project but would like the Natural Resource Advisory Committee (NRAC) to have the opportunity to complete a site assessment.

The Board discussed the basin and would like the Director to express to Zoning the Board doesn't object to the use of the land to continue as a storm water basin; however, they would like to see the basin have a shallow shelf with plants; be graded; have a rain garden or wild flowers and for NRAC to have the opportunity to complete a site assessment. The Board would like a copy of the RFP for the project.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Euton shared the Director's Report from June and July 2011, which included a financial update from the Recreation Division.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Aquatics Advisory Committee**

Franzmann stated that at the last meeting Brandstetter Carroll, Inc. made a presentation on the

benefits of a feasibility study of a family aquatics center. The Gahanna Swimming Pool (GSP) offers a lot of land for a future expansion. The cost of completing a study is \$15,000. The front pool at GSP is 52 years old; the life expectancy for pools is 25-30 years. Franzmann stated that the presentation was very interesting.

Naegele stated that if Gahanna got anything like neighboring communities that families would love it. Tremante asked if staff plans on moving ahead with the study, he thought that the cost of the study was a good price and it would be good to have a plan. Euton stated that at this time there is not any funding in the budget. Funding was requested in 2011 for some planning of the Price Road Park and GSP, but it was not approved.

**BAC**

Naegele stated that the committee discussed the issues with BWT Section 8. All of the bike route signs are installed. AEP was considering the Adopt a Foot program for the trail and has decided not to sponsor the Tech Center Drive portion. The Bridge Dedication went very well.

**NRAC**

Nothing at this time

**MEMBERS COMMENTS**

**Parks & Recreation Foundation**

Ross shared that volunteers are needed for the Friday after Five. The Freedom Festival went well.

**Veterans Memorial Committee**

**School Board Report**

Schuler stated that Clark Hall is on schedule. There will be an open house prior to opening. Schuler continues working on mutual use projects with the City. School starts August 24<sup>th</sup>.

**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 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Pam Crossmock, Administrative Assistant

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

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Cynthia Franzmann, Chair