

FAIRFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MINUTES

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2014

The monthly meeting of the Fairfield Parks and Recreation Board was conducted on Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at the Fairfield Community Arts Center. Chair Doug Meece called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Board Members in attendance were: Doug Meece, Bob Myron, Craig Keller, Debbie Pennington, Billy Smith and Rodney Spencer. Board Member Bob Breen was excused from the meeting. Staff members in attendance were James Bell, Parks and Recreation Director; Heidi Schiller, Arts/Programs Manager; Robert Schappacher, Facilities/Operations Manager; and Cyndi Kreke, Board Secretary.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Chairman Doug Meece welcomed the Board's newest member, Craig Keller, to the Parks and Recreation Board. Mr. Keller is the second ward representative to the Board, replacing Marty Judd, who was appointed to City Council.

Mr. Ron Jackups, Fairfield Optimist Club; Mr. Jamie Blanton, Fairfield Soccer Association; Mr. Jerry Gregory, Fairfield Optimist Soccer Club; and Ms. Karyn Phillips, Mid-American Soccer Classic, representing Fairfield Soccer made a presentation to the Board regarding the 2013 soccer season and the plans for the up-coming 2014 soccer season (power-point presentation attached). The Board thanked the group for the information and the group's commitment to youth soccer in the area.

Mr. Howard Dirksen, representing the Fairfield Community Connection, made a presentation to the Board regarding the "Fairfield Reads" Little Free Library Project proposal. Mr. Dirksen showed the Little Free Library website and commented on the proposal. Copies of Mr. Dirksen's Fairfield Community Connection proposal/guidelines were presented to the Board for review (attached). Mr. Dirksen requested that several of the "Fairfield Reads" Little Free Library boxes be located in various park sites. The Board had concerns regarding location, maintenance, donor responsibilities, vandalism, etc., and would not commit at this time. The Board tabled the discussion and requested that Mr. Dirksen research the project further.

MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The March 2014 meeting minutes were approved as written.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR:

First Quarter 2014 Revenues/Expenses/Metrics: Jim Bell reviewed the first quarter golf rounds; as compared to 2013. An increase in rounds has been observed in 2014; although the playable days were reduced in first quarter and North Trace opened later in the season (1,568 rounds/2104 compared to 1,421 rounds/2013). Mr. Bell also stated that the City was reviewing a new performance measurements program to replace the current monthly metrics program; the new program would provide better data for use by the various departments.

2014-2018 Capital Improvement Program: Mr. Bell reviewed the Parks, Golf and Aquatic 2014 Capital Improvement Program with the Board (presentation attached) and stated that City Council had reviewed the 2014-2018 CIP and was in the process of preparing legislation to accept.

City Wide Ethics Policy: Mr. Bell distributed a copy of the City-Wide Ethics Policy to the Board members (attached). Mr. Bell stated that the City employees, elected officials and appointed officials

were held to the same standards by the Ohio Ethics Law and Related Statutes and the City policy. Although the policy had not changed since 2012; with the turn-over in the Board membership, Mr. Bell thought it was an appropriate practice to distribute the copies to all Board members annually, just not to the new members.

Election of Board Officers: Mr. Bell distributed a copy of the Board's By Laws, related to its yearly organization meeting. Per the By Laws, the Board is to organize at its May meeting by electing a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary. At the May meeting, the Board also appoints a member to the Planning Commission and the various commissions (Environmental Commission and Cultural Arts Advisory Commission).

REPORTS OF AD HOC COMMITTEES:

City Council Update: Debbie Pennington reported that at the last City Council meeting, the City Council endorsed the Fairfield City School District Levy (7-0). Ms. Pennington stated that the City Council had toured the Central Elementary School and were overwhelmed by its need for modernization and maintenance concerns. Ms. Pennington also reported that the City and 4 of the 5 employee bargaining had come to terms on new 3 year contracts.

Planning Commission Update: Bob Myron stated that the Planning Commission was in the process of reviewing a proposed Gilmore Road business expansion; in the out-lot adjacent to the Meijer's store; the project would include a stand-alone Panera Bread Store, with drive-thru.

Environmental Commission Update: Rodney Spencer reported that Sara Bruewer, PT Naturalist, had attended that last Environmental Commission meeting and updated the Commission on her spring/summer programming plans for Huffman Park. The Commission was also approached by a concerned citizen that the park needed to have more habitat for the Monarch Butterfly, as it migrates through the area. The EC is investigating the planting of native Milkweed plants to create said habitat. Mr. Spencer also reported on the living legacy trees being planted in the Honor Grove at Creekside Park.

Cultural Arts Advisory Commission Update: No report

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: The Board briefly discussed the Little Free Library program that was presented to the Board earlier in the meeting by Mr. Dirksen. The Board felt that Mr. Dirksen needed to do further research on the project, prior to the Board making any decisions on whether to allow locations within the park sites.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

The Board adjourned the meeting at 7:55 PM. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2014, at 6:00 PM, at the Fairfield Community Arts Center.

Cyndi A. Kreke,
Secretary