

FAIRFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MINUTES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2012

The monthly meeting of the Fairfield Parks and Recreation Board was conducted on Tuesday, February 14, 2012 at the Fairfield Community Arts Center. Chair Doug Meece called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Board Members in attendance were: Bob Breen, Dr. Stanley Goodman, Doug Meece, Bob Myron, and Richard Wood. A motion was made and approved to excuse members Marty Judd and Terry Senger. Staff members in attendance were: Jim Bell, Parks and Recreation Director; Heidi Schiller, CAC Manager; Bob Schappacher, Parks Facilities Manager; Ben Strickler, Parks Events Manager and Cyndi Kreke, Secretary.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: Steve Smith, President of Therapeutic Recreation for the Disabled, made a presentation on the construction progress of the Miracle League/Field of Dreams project on Groh Lane (attached). Mr. Smith is also a member of the project committee. Mr. Smith requested that the Board consider the naming of the site, Hatton Park, due to a large financial contribution by the Hatton Foundation. The foundation had contributed \$500,000.00 to the project and the committee felt that the naming of the recreation complex was appropriate. The recreation complex would be known as Hatton Park and the baseball fields known as the Joe Nuxhall Miracle League Fields (at Hatton Park). Jim Bell reviewed the criteria for naming parks, from the Board's Recreation and Park Sites Rules and Regulations. The criteria for the naming of parks would be emailed to the Parks and Recreation Board for their review. The large financial contribution met the criteria for the rules and regulations. The Board said that they would discuss the Committee's request under New Business. Mr. Smith also noted that the project should be completed by early summer and the facility may have a ceremonial ribbon cutting on June 10th, to coincide with the anniversary of Joe Nuxhall's major league debut. Other events are planned throughout the summer. The Board thanked Mr. Smith for his presentation and the committee's hard work.

MINTUES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the regular Board meeting of January 10, 2012. The minutes were approved as written.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Operations Revenue/Expense Report (December 2011): Jim Bell reviewed the December 2011 operations revenue/expense reports with the Board (attached). Mr. Bell discussed the reduction in rounds of golf from 2009 (61,437), 2010 (58,691) and 2011 (49,960) and its affect on the revenue/expenses.

Planning for the 2013 Budget: Jim Bell reviewed a recent City Council presentation with the Board in regards to the financial stability of the City in preparation for the 2013 budget planning process; basically that the City was anticipating a \$1.5 M short fall at the beginning of 2013 in the general fund. The presentation would be emailed to the Parks and Recreation Board for their review (attached). Jim Bell reviewed the three options which were presented to City Council; Increase the City's Income Tax Rate, Cut Staffing by \$1.5 M, or Reallocate the Existing Income Tax Revenue. The reallocation of the existing city income tax was felt to be the best sustainable

and long-term option for the City. Both the reallocation and/or an increase in the City's income tax must be voted upon by the citizens.

2012 Fees & Charges: Jim Bell reviewed the proposed 2012 Fees and Charges; which would be covered under New Business. Mr. Bell reiterated, per the previous discussion regarding the 2013 budget preparation, the need to reduce the subsidy from the General Fund in the areas of Marsh Park Fishing Lake, Golf Courses/Aquatic Center and Community Arts Center. Mr. Bell reminded the Board of their discussions at the January meeting of the housekeeping items which were being made consistent throughout the fees/charges (family season passes based upon 4 person household; family season passes being based upon 10-12 visits; individual season passes being based upon 15-20 visits; inclusion of Military Rates at fishing lake, aquatic center and golf courses; removal of free admissions to facilities for employees, volunteers and elected officials; along with consistent verbiage throughout all fee/charges resolutions).

Fairfield Aquatic Center (Resolution 2012-03) would increase its daily admission by \$1.00 and also include a "babysitter" pass, as an add-on to a family pass. The season passes would raise incrementally to reflect the minimum visits. The facility has not raised its fees/charges since the addition of the new spray ground feature and its other upgrades.

Fairfield Greens Golf Courses (Resolution 2012-04) would increase the riding greens fees by \$0.50 for 9 holes and \$1.00 for 18 holes; a walking greens fee would not be affected. The facility is receiving new 2012 golf carts for the season and felt the riding greens fee was justified.

Fairfield Greens Phalen Center, Harbin Park Shelters and the Elisha Morgan Mansion (Resolution 2012-05) would see no changes.

Marsh Park Fishing Lake (Resolution 2012-06) would increase its daily admission by \$1.00 and the season passes would raise incrementally to reflect minimum visits. The facility's fees have not been raised since 2005.

Fairfield Community Arts Center (Resolution 2012-07) would see no changes.

2012-2016 CIP Review: Jim Bell reviewed the 2012-2016 Parks and Recreation Facilities Capital Improvement Program with the Board (attached). Mr. Bell reiterated with the current economic climate the CIP was not as aggressive as in years past and would focus on primarily maintenance items. The Board discussed that the two major parks projects which would open in 2012 were privately funded (Huffman Park and Field of Dreams) and in this economic climate there are very few communities which can be opening two multi-million dollar projects in one year. Mr. Breen requested that the staff continue to investigate alternate funding sources for the Black Bottom Park.

REPORTS OF AD HOC COMMITTEES:

City Council Update: No Report

Planning Commission Update: Bob Myron reported that the Planning Commission had discussed the change in the subdivision plan for Emerald Lakes, had approved the wind mill at the Huffman Park, and discussed several conditional uses at the Cincinnati Mall and Camelot Drive/Route 4 area.

Environmental Commission Update: No report

Cultural Arts Advisory Commission Update: No report

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 2012-03: It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 2012-03 in regards to the fees/charges at the Fairfield Aquatic Center. The resolution was approved unanimously.

Resolution 2012-04: It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 2012-04 in regards to the fees/charges at the Fairfield Greens Golf Courses. The resolution was approved unanimously.

Resolution 2012-05: It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 2012-05 in regards to the fees/charges at the Fairfield Greens Phalen Center, Harbin Park Shelter Houses, and the Elisha Morgan Mansion. The resolution was approved unanimously.

Resolution 2012-06: It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 2012-06 in regards to the fees/charges at the Marsh Park Fishing Lake. The resolution was approved unanimously.

Resolution 2012-07: It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 2012-07 in regards to the fees/charges at the Fairfield Community Arts Center. The resolution was approved unanimously.

Resolution 2012-08: The Board continued the discussion of the Miracle League Fields Committee's request to name the Groh Lane site in honor of the financial contribution of the Hatton Foundation. The Board felt that the request met the criteria for the naming of park sites and it was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 2012-08 in regards to the naming of the Groh Lane site, Hatton Park.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

The Board adjourned the meeting at 6:56 PM. The next regular monthly meeting of the Board is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2012, at 5:30 PM, at the Community Arts Center.

Cyndi A Kreke
Secretary