

FAIRFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MINUTES

TUESDAY JULY 10, 2012

The monthly meeting of the Fairfield Parks and Recreation Board was conducted on Tuesday, July 10, 2012, at the Fairfield Community Arts Center. Chair Doug Meece called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Board Members in attendance were: Dr. Stanley Goodman, Marty Judd, Doug Meece, Bob Myron, and Terry Senger. A motion was made and approved to excuse Board Members Bob Breen and Richard Wood. Staff members in attendance were: James Bell, Parks and Recreation Director; Bob Schappacher, Facilities/Operations Manager; Heidi Schiller, Arts/Programs Manager; Ben Strickler, Community Events Coordinator; Bethany Brewer, Recreation Intern and Cyndi Kreke, Secretary. Also in attendance was John Clemmons, Law Director and Mary Hopton, Finance Director.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None

MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING: The April, May and June meeting minutes were approved as presented.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR:

City Financial Review/Recreation Facilities Fund Review: Jim Bell introduced Mary Hopton, Finance Director, who reviewed the city's financial process for funding parks and recreation operations and capital projects. Ms. Hopton highlighted the Recreation Facilities Fund and its subsidy from the general fund (power point report attached). The Board thanked Ms. Hopton for the presentation.

Amendment to ORC 2921.43/Acceptance of Tips: Jim Bell introduced John Clemmons, Law Director, who reviewed a copy of a letter drafted to Senator Bill Coley and State Representative Courtney Combs requesting that the Ohio Ethics Commission consider an amendment to the ORC to create a limited exemption to allow retail food and beverage services workers employed by public agencies to accept tips as part of their compensation (letter attached). Boardmember/Councilmember Terry Senger relayed that he had met with Mr. Clemmons and Mr. Arthur Pizzano, City Manager to discuss this issue and understood that an exemption in the State of Ohio's Ethics Laws was necessary to allow such a matter; thus the letter. Mr. Senger stated that City Council had reviewed the letter, at their July 9th meeting, and all seven Councilmembers and the Mayor had signed the letter in support. Mr. Senger requested that the Parks and Recreation Boardmembers sign the letter in support too; if they so desired. Mr. Senger stated that if the Board did not want to pursue this matter, then he would not send the letter. Doug Meece spoke in support of the measure, stating that it was common amongst golfers to tip for food/beverage service and when the concessions at the golf course was privately operated that tipping was allowed. Marty Judd questioned the disparity of a part-time maintenance worker being paid the same as a part-time concession worker, but not having the access to the additional "pay"; although he/she was working just as hard, if not harder than a part-time concession worker. Mr. Clemmons stated that the amendment letter was written to allow for the part-time concession worker to be paid at a lower rate than another worker; possibly below minimum wage, therefore it would be justified in the receipt of tips. A majority of the Boardmembers present signed the letter and Mr. Senger requested that Jim Bell deliver the letter to the City Manager's office for mailing to the State of Ohio. Mr. Bell

reiterated that the letter was a request to the Ohio Ethics Commission and currently the receipt of tips for public employees was still prohibited.

Operations Revenue/Expense Report (May 2012): Jim Bell reviewed the May operations and expense report (attached). Mr. Bell commented that the unseasonably mild winter/spring had been a boost to the golf operations; golf rounds through June 2012 are 25,636 rounds, compared to 21,235 (2011). The hot summer weather had been a boost to the aquatic center operations.

Memorial Day Parade Participant Parameters: Jim Bell reported that a City Councilmember requested that the Parks and Recreation Board review the Memorial Day Parade participant parameters, in regards to “candidates running for office” being allowed in the parade. Mr. Bell reviewed that history of the Memorial Day parade, which began in 2001, as part of the Veterans Memorial Park committee. In 2000, a group of veterans approached the City requesting that the parcel of property on the north-west corner of Wessel/Pleasant be considered for a Veterans Memorial Park. The Park and Recreation Board suggested that the former “Library Park”, on Wessel Drive was a better alternative. A committee was formed consisting of representatives of the local VFW post, Am Vets post and VFW Ladies Auxiliary and City support staff to begin the transformation of Library Park into Veterans Memorial Park. The committee began the Memorial Day parade/Remembrance Ceremony in 2001; and did not have any prohibitions on participants. Jim Bell presented several of the Committees’ parade participation applications (2001-2005). The committee disbanded prior to the 2006 parade and the Parks and Recreation Department assumed the duties of planning the parade/remembrance ceremony, under the same guidelines. Mr. Senger stated that he was in the parade and did not see any of the problems/issues that were stated by the City Councilmember, but wanted to review the issue. Mr. Senger requested that staff review other communities’ parade parameters and report back to the Board. Mr. Senger stated that there is plenty of time to review this issue. Mr. Meece stated that he was disappointed in community groups distributing flyers promoting their group, country/swim club, event, etc., which had no connection to the Memorial Day event. Jim Bell stated that the staff would investigate the issue and report back to the Board at a later meeting.

City-Wide Ethics Policy: Jim Bell stated that the City had recently updated its City-Wide Ethics Policy and meetings were being held with staff, volunteers and Boards/Commissions to distribute copies of the policy. The policy was distributed to the Board (attached).

Park Entrance Fees/Sale of Golf Course: The Board continued the discussion of a citizen’s recommendation that vehicle entrance fees be charged at area parks, specifically Harbin Park; and that the two golf courses be combined into one 18 hole golf course and the vacated land be sold to a developer. It was the consensus of the Board not to pursue these recommendations.

Village Green Park/Solicitation Requests: Jim Bell stated that the Department periodically receives requests from non-profit agencies to solicit funds/donations and/or promote at parks and recreation events; typically the high profile events at the Village Green Park. Jim Bell stated that the Department typically turns down these requests and reviewed Parks and Recreation Sites Rules and Regulation 100.12 with the Board, which prohibits such requests. Jim Bell stated that 100.12 had a provision which would allow the solicitation; but that provision is enacted when the Non-Profit is the sponsor of the event (i.e. the Fairfield Community Foundation sponsors a concert, during the summer concert series).

Muskopf Road/Hamilton Well Fields: Jim Bell stated that a City Councilmen requested that the Board pursue discussions with the City of Hamilton and receive permission to construct a bike/hike path in the

Hamilton well field acreage on Muskopf Road. The Board asked if the staff would investigate the issue and report back to the Board at a later meeting.

Field of Dreams/Miracle League Fields/Hatton Park Project Update: Jim Bell reported that the committee had scheduled the grand opening ceremony on July 28, 2012. As invitations/further information is received, it will be forwarded to the Board.

Huffman Park Update: Jim Bell reported that the project was progressing; but the contractor had begun letting the schedule slide. The City's project management team had met with the contractor and expressed their displeasure with the slippage and was assured that the situation would be rectified. The grand-opening ceremony is still on schedule for late October 2012 and the full-time programming will begin in spring 2013.

Marsh Park/Black Bottom Park: Jim Bell updated the Board on an erosion issue at Marsh Park; caused by the storm water drainage system from the Lake Mead Drive area. The problem area is on the south-east corner of the park, where the storm water pipe discharges into the lake. The Parks Maintenance staff has arranged with the Public Works Department to use the discarded sidewalk concrete, from the sidewalk replacement program, as rip-rap, to stabilize the area. The concrete will be stored at the Black Bottom Park and the excess will be used to "cap" the area that was used as a lime disposal area by the Cincinnati Water Works.

Employee/Volunteer Pool Party: Jim Bell reminded that Board of the upcoming Employee/Volunteer Pool Party at the Fairfield Aquatic Center on Friday, August 3, 2012.

REPORTS OF AD HOC COMMITTEES:

City Council Update: Mr. Senger stated that he attended an event at the Community Arts Center with City representatives and representatives of the Japanese corporate office of Fairfield's Pacific Industries. Mr. Senger stated that the Pacific Industries' representatives were very pleased with the relationship between the City and the Company. Mr. Senger reported that City Council had recently improved a tax incentive for the expansion of Koch Foods, which would doubt the size of the plant and its employees. Mr. Senger reported that City Council had its first reading on the proposed Kroger Fuel Station on Pleasant/Nilles.

Planning Commission Update: Mr. Bob Myron reiterated that the Kroger Fuel Station project was before City Council; after several questions from the Board regarding the design, Jim Bell stated that he would forward a copy of the City Council letter to the Board that included several of the design components. Mr. Myron reported that the Planning Commission was discussing several fence variances, flutter/windblown signage and a variance in Olde Winton subdivision.

Environmental Commission Update: Ben Strickler reported on behalf of Bob Breen that the Environmental Commission did not meet in July. Mr. Strickler presented the Environmental Commission's 2011 Annual Report (attached).

Cultural Arts Advisory Commission Update: Doctor Goodman reported that the CAAC did not meet in June.

OLD BUSINESS:

Brady Seals Concert: Marty Judd requested that Brady Seals be included in the 2013 performance calendar. Ben Strickler had previously reported that Brady Seals was not available for the 2012 schedule due to scheduling conflicts.

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointments to Advisory Committees: Jim Bell reported that three citizens had submitted applications for the vacancies on the Cultural Arts Advisory Commission and the Environmental Commission. Each commission has one vacant position. Mr. Bell asked the Board if they wanted to interview the candidates at the August Board meeting and the Board responded affirmatively. Mr. Bell would contact the candidates and arrange the interviews.

Hero's Ride Celebration: Terry Senger reported that the Hero's Ride (August 25th) had changed its route. The event typically started and ended at Village Green Park; followed by a dinner and concert in the park. The Committee decided that the 2012 ride would begin at Village Green Park, but end at Rick's Tavern on Boymel Drive in Fairfield. In past years, the Parks and Recreation Department provided entertainment at the Village Green Park, following the ride; this year the Department will be providing a pre-ride concert.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

The Board adjourned the meeting at 6:52 PM. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, August 14, 2012, at 5:30 PM, at the Fairfield Community Arts Center.

Cyndi A. Kreke,
Secretary