

FAIRFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MINUTES

TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2010

The monthly meeting of the Fairfield Parks and Recreation Board was conducted on Tuesday, May 11, 2010 at the Fairfield Community Arts Center. Vice Chair Doug Meece called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Board Members in attendance were: Dr. Stanley Goodman, Don Hassler, Doug Meece, Tim Meyers and Bob Myron. Board Members Dick Wood and Bob Breen were excused. Staff members present were: Jim Bell, Parks and Recreation Director; Bob Schappacher, Parks Facilities Manager; Heidi Schiller, Community Arts Center Manager; Cindi Lewellyn, Recreation Manager; and Cyndi Kreke, Secretary.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None

MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the April 13, 2010 meeting. The April minutes were approved as presented.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Operations Reports (March 2010): Jim Bell reviewed the March 2010 operations reports for revenues, expenses, and participation/programming numbers from the Golf Courses, Community Arts Center and the Recreation programs (attached). Mr. Bell commented that the weather had not been cooperating; as it had in the first quarter of 2009, and rounds were down at the golf courses for the first quarter 2010 by 1,794 rounds. The golf courses rebounded during the month of April and rounds were steadily increasing. Mr. Meece commented that the wet weather in May had caused the cancellation of a weekend outing and the guaranteed tee times over the past weekend.

Park Hours of Operation Review: Jim Bell reviewed the comments received by a citizen at the April Board meeting, who requested that the Board investigate the daily hours of operation within the park system; and allow for the opening of the parks at an earlier time, specifically Harbin Park. Mr. Bell stated, as the Board had requested, that he, the Parks Facilities Manager, the Parks/Grounds Superintendent and the Park Maintenance Foreman had met to discuss the resident's concerns. Currently the Parks and Recreation Sites Rules and Regulations state that the parks are closed at sunset and opened at 9:00 AM. It was believed that this rule was written in regards to the parks that are gated to prohibit vehicular access and allow park maintenance staff the flexibility in traveling throughout the City to open all the gated parks (Harbin Park, Gilbert Park, etc) at the start of the work day. Typically though the parks are open daylight to dusk, for pedestrian traffic; and those parks that are gated are opened at 9:00 AM, usually earlier. After Board discussion; it was decided that vehicular access to the parks would be from 7:30 AM to dusk; while pedestrian access to the parks would remain the same. Jim stated

that he would discuss the Board's decision with the City Law Director and have the resolution prepared for the June meeting; with the proposed changes.

2010 Parks & Recreation Policies/Procedures Annual Review: Jim Bell distributed a copy of the Parks and Recreation Policies/Procedures to the Board members for their review; showing the changes in the mission statement as discussed at the April Board Meeting. Mr. Bell stated that the change in the mission statement included "cultural opportunities" and to remove the word "Board" from statement; so that the statement would be consistent throughout the Department/Board as part of the accreditation review process.

Black Bottom Park Update: Jim Bell reviewed the various stages of the permitting process that was occurring with the project. Mr. Bell stated that since the majority of the project site was located outside the City's corporate limits, plus its proximity to the Great Miami River and several municipal well fields, that eleven (11) different government agencies must review and may require permits for the project. Those agencies include: City of Fairfield, Fairfield Township, Ross Township, Butler County, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, City of Hamilton, City of Cincinnati/Water Works, Hamilton-New Baltimore Ground Water Consortium, Miami Valley Conservancy District, Army Corp of Engineers, and the State of Ohio/EPA. Mr. Bell would continue to update the Board at future meetings on project.

Miscellaneous: Mr. Bell reminded the Board of the Memorial Day Parade/Remembrance Ceremony on May 31st and the Aquatic Center's Spray Park Preview Party on June 2nd.

REPORTS OF AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Council Update: Mr. Meyers reported that City Council had been discussing a proposal from Duke Energy to provide a monetary savings to its Fairfield customers. The customer would "opt into" the savings program. Mr. Meyers stated that City Council would discuss this matter further at its next meeting. Mr. Meyers also reported that the City was selling municipal bonds to finance the By Pass 4 project.

Planning Commission Update: Don Hassler reported that the Planning Commission had been reviewing several projects on Patterson Boulevard; a church had purchased the vacant MRDD Building, the VFW had purchased the "old" Post Office, Barry L. Brown Paving had purchased the vacant insurance building, and the Fair Plaza redevelopment project. The Commission has also been reviewing a new housing design proposal at the Olde Winton Subdivision, a cell tower proposal on Rt. 4, and a church proposal in a Winton Road strip center.

Environmental Commission Update: No report.

Cultural Arts Advisory Commission Update: Bob Myron reported that the CAAC had discussed the vacancy on the commission, the Phil Nuxhall book signing at the Arts Center, and the up-coming Art Fair. Mr. Myron also reported that the CAAC had elected

new officers and discussed agenda modifications to allow the meetings to run more efficiently.

OLD BUSINESS: Doug Meece reported that he and City Councilman Mitch Rhodus attended the April 20th meeting of the Fairfield Youth Baseball Association. Mr. Meece reported that the meeting was cordial; and that he reiterated to FYBA of the Parks and Recreation Board's numerous requests that FYBA get a better handle on their finances and maintenance/concession contracts. Jim Bell stated that he had contacted FYBA and the project architect regarding their concerns that the upper windows at the Nuxhall Pavilion were not spec and relayed that Parks would cause to have the windows replaced; provided FYBA forwarded their proposal to Mr. Bell.

NEW BUSINESS:

2010 Board Officers: The Board discussed whether to vote on officers at the May meeting or defer to the June meeting, since several Board members were missing the meeting. It was decided to proceed with the voting, since full Board attendance during the summer months was sometime difficult. The officers for 2010 were elected accordingly: Chair – Doug Meece; Vice Chair – Bob Myron; and Secretary – Cyndi Kreke. Chairman Meece stated that he would make his appointments to the Planning Commission, the Environmental Commission and the Cultural Arts Advisory Commission at the June meeting.

2010 Board Policies and Procedures/Resolution 10-02: It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 10-02 in regards to the 2010 Board Policies and Procedures. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Director requested an Executive Session to discuss Acquisition/Purchase of Property. The roll call vote was unanimous and the Board recessed into executive session.

The Parks and Recreation Board reconvened and adjourned the meeting at 6:25 PM. The next monthly meeting of the Board is scheduled to be held at 5:30 PM on June 8, 2010 at the Community Arts Center.

Cyndi A Kreke
Secretary