

FAIRFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MINUTES

OCTOBER 21, 2014

The monthly meeting of the Fairfield Parks and Recreation Board was conducted on Tuesday, October 21, 2014, at the Fairfield Community Arts Center. Chair Doug Meece called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Board Members in attendance were: Bob Breen, Doug Meece, Debbie Pennington, Craig Keller, and Rodney Spencer. Board Members Bob Myron and Billy Smith were excused from the meeting. Staff members in attendance were James Bell, Parks and Recreation Director; Brad Williams, Operations Coordinator; Greg Morrow, Maintenance Coordinator and Cyndi Kreke, Secretary. Also in attendance was John Ervin, Vice President/Fairfield Youth Baseball Association and citizens Lisa & Bryan Holbrook.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: Chairman Meece recognized Lisa and Bryan Holbrook. They stated that a recent article in the Journal News regarding the pending expansion of Marsh Park had piqued their interest; since they were residents of Lakeside Estates and their home lot had one of the two easements for a sidewalk connector into the park. Jim Bell stated that the newspaper article was premature but that City administrative staff had met with representatives of Martin-Marietta and Martin-Marietta shared that the mining operations on the property would cease this year. There is a surplus of aggregates materials on the property that must be addressed prior to the property being conveyed on to the City. Mr. Bell stated that as the design process unfolds, public hearings would be held to assist in the project.

Jim Bell introduced John Ervin, Fairfield Youth Baseball Association; Mr. Ervin proceeded to present the highlights of the 2014 FYBA season (power-point attached). The Board thanked Mr. Ervin for the report and the service that FYBA provides for the youth of Fairfield.

MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING: The September 2014 meeting minutes were approved as written.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR:

2015 Operations Budget: Jim Bell updated the Board on the proposed 2015 Parks and Recreation operating budget and the department's administrative budget hearing. Mr. Bell reviewed the General Fund, Recreation Facilities Fund and Recreation Activity Fund; as each fund relates to the overall operation of the Parks and Recreation Department and the City. Mr. Bell stated that it was the goal to keep the budgets as flat as possible; but several issues would make that challenging, particularly health care costs increases. Mr. Bell stated that the Department's overall 2014 budget was approximately \$4,811,000.00; and its proposed 2015 budget was \$5,022,000.00 was a 4.3% increase (budget comparisons attached). The Board concurred on the presentation of the 2015 Operations Budget to City Council.

Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update: Jim Bell informed the Board that the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands/Indiana University team was prepared to make its final report at a joint meeting of City Council and the Parks and Recreation Board on Monday, December 8, 2014; as part of City Council/City Manager Briefing that evening. The Board concurred with the joint meeting

format and that the December 8th meeting would serve as the December Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

CAPRA/NRPA Agency Accreditation: Jim Bell and Brad Williams reported that the CAPRA/NRPA accreditation hearing was conducted on October 13th at the NRPA Congress. Mr. Bell, Mr. Williams and Mr. Andre Pichley (NRPA Accreditation Visitor Chair) had attended the hearing on the Department's behalf and were pleased to report that the Department had achieved national accreditation. The Department is only one of nine accredited agencies in the state of Ohio and only one of one hundred and thirty-five nationally. Mr. Williams commented that maintaining the accreditation was an on-going process and the department's re-accreditation hearing would be in 2019. Mr. Bell and Mr. Williams commented on the accreditation hearing process and updated the Board on the new 2014 accreditation standards.

Fairfield Greens/South Trace Irrigation Project: Greg Morrow updated the Board on the South Trace golf course irrigation system project (Phase 1). Mr. Morrow explained that the system has become antiquated and a maintenance burden; a portion of the system is pre-City owned (prior to 1978). The project is being completed in phases due to financial constraints, as not to disrupt the golf course operations and will renovate the system from a hydraulic controlled system to an electrical controlled system. The contractor is on site for phase one which includes the purchase and installation of one (1) Toro E-OSMAC Field Controller and fifty-five (55) Toro Infinity Series Rotors. Phase one will renovate holes #2 (green), #3 (tee, fairway and green) and #4 (tee, fairway and green).

Chairman Meece questioned some of the recent golf course projects and their impact on the golf course. Mr. Meece stated that he had been questioned by numerous golfers and did not feel that he had adequate information to relay to the golfers. Although the projects are discussed during the CIP process, updates on the specific projects would be helpful. Mr. Williams and Mr. Morrow stated that the projects were specific to the pillars of the golf course management (maintenance friendly, playability to the core golfers and safety) and felt that informational boards within the pro shop would assist in conveying information to the golfers on specific projects. Rodney Spencer stated that he had been on the G. E. Park Board of Managers and had liaised between the golfers and the Board; and was willing to lend his expertise to the process. It was concluded that an Ad Hoc golf course committee would be seated consisting of Doug Meece, Rodney Spencer, Brad Williams, Greg Morrow and Dave Hartman; and report back to the Board periodically. Mr. Meece and Mr. Williams would set the first meeting date.

Debbie Pennington stated that she had seen the year to date golf course rounds; but wanted to know how the rounds compared to the last few years. Mr. Bell stated that he would email that information to the Board tomorrow.

REPORTS OF AD HOC COMMITTEES:

City Council Update: Mrs. Pennington reported that the Mayor had congratulated the Parks and Recreation Department for the CAPRA accreditation at the last City Council meeting. Mrs. Pennington also reported that City Council had approved the legislation for the construction of the shelter houses at Marsh Park and Fairfield Youth Playfields. Mr. Bell commented that the City Council will be receiving pending legislation for the City's 2015 Community Development Block Grant program and with the realigned census data, several park sites had been removed from the CDBG's low/moderate income category. Good Neighbors Park remained within the CDBG area and would be receiving funding for a shelter and handicap walkway.

Planning Commission Update: No report

Environmental Commission Update: Rodney Spencer reported that the EC was preparing for its joint meeting with the City of Hamilton's Tree Board to discuss potential partnership opportunities. The meeting would be held on November 5th. Mr. Spencer reported that several EC members had been at Huffman Park identifying trees; since several of the tree identification markers had been removed. Mr. Morrow reported that the tree markers were in the possession of Park Maintenance and would be re-installed soon. Mr. Breen questioned when the joint Parks and Public Works project to remove the dead ash trees at Harbin Park would begin. Mr. Bell stated that due to weather issues, Public Works was behind schedule, but he would contact Public Works and send the Board an email update.

Cultural Arts Advisory Commission Update: Bob Breen reported that at the September meeting the CAAC juried the art work presented for the Community Showcase gallery exhibit.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2014, at 6:00 PM, at the Fairfield Community Arts Center.

Cyndi A. Kreke,
Secretary