

FAIRFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MINUTES

May 18, 2021

The monthly meeting of the Fairfield Parks and Recreation Board occurred on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at the Fairfield Community Arts Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm. Parks Board Members in attendance were: Doug Meece, Gwen Ritchie, Leslie Besl, Don Carpenter, and Dan Prior. A motion was made and seconded to excuse members Paul Assum and Scott Clark. The motion passed and board members Paul Assum and Scott Clark were excused. Staff members in attendance were Brad Williams, Acting Parks Director; Molly McGraw, Hospitality and Venue Coordinator and Cyndi Kreke, Board Secretary.

Audience members in attendance:

Oakwood Park Neighborhood Residents: Mark Steiner, Tim Weingartner, Robert Murray, Nancy Horujko Johns and Barry McNamara

Fairfield Youth Sports Representatives: John Ervin, FYBA; Geoff Patan, FOSC and Randy Mefford, Fairfield Youth Football

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS & CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Several residents from the neighborhood surrounding Oakwood Park were present to bring to the Board's attention their concerns about events happening in and around the park. Copies of several police reports documenting incidents in the park were presented. According to the residents, one of the areas in the park with the most complaints is the basketball courts. Vulgar language, loud music and trash left in the park are a few of the concerns. Speeding vehicles and drug activity were also mentioned. These activities cause a major concern for the safety of the children living in the area. The board thanked the residents for addressing their issues with the board. Doug Meece, Board Chair, informed the residents that the Board would research and investigate their concerns and would ask them back at a later meeting to readdress this issue.

***Board member Scott Clark entered the meeting at 6:12pm.**

Fairfield Youth Baseball Association: A Power Point presentation was given by John Ervin reviewing the 2020 season and the business operations of the organization. The main focus of the year was for the participants to have "FUN". Overall, the FYBA was able to play a full season and the Fall Ball was the biggest the organization has ever had. The Butler County Tournament was held and Fairfield did very well. A memorial for Dave Padgett was held a field was named in his honor.

Fairfield Youth Athletic Association: Randy Mefford gave a presentation on the Association focusing on Fairfield Youth Football. Mr. Mefford informed the board that the 2020 youth football season was held due to an extensive COVID plan they devised well in advance. All coaches go through background checks and training in several different areas, including concussion training. One advantage that Fairfield has is that we have our own facility. The organization is 100% self-funded and the Board is volunteer based. In

the year 2020, registration was down about 20%. Their registration fees are one of the lowest in the area and the Community made up the deficit from 2020 with donations and sponsors. Microsoft was one of the biggest donors from 2020. Mr. Mefford reviewed the numerous improvements that have been recently done at the facility. Future plans include a covered pavilion, an improved equipment shed and blocking sleds. One of the major requests from the City for the future is to provide onsite bathrooms.

Fairfield Optimist Soccer Club: Geoff Patan presented a report on the FOSC to the Board members. Mr. Patan informed the Board that in the year 2020, the MASC tournament was cancelled for the first time due to COVID. The MASC tournament was started in 1976. Since, the tournament was cancelled, the organization took the opportunity to irrigate Field 10 and perform maintenance on other fields. This year, 2021, the MASC tournament was held. The participation was slightly down, but the tournament was still successful. Since the retirement of Jamie Blanton, the FOSC has been working on bringing the SAY Soccer program under their umbrella and back up to speed.

The Board thanked John Ervin, Randy Mefford and Geoff Patan for their presentations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the April, 2021 meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the minutes were approved as presented.

REPORT OF OTHER BOARDS & COMMISSIONS / AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Planning Commission: Gwen Ritchie presented the report from the Planning Commission. Ms. Ritchie informed the Board that a conditional use was permitted for an additional lot to be used by Fox Towing and Storage. Two requests for auto repair shops were denied. A dedication plaque was approved for a new building for use by Pacific Manufacturing at Port Union and Seward. Discussions were held about Meijer parceling off parking areas. The Planning Commission denied this usage.

Environmental Commission: Mr. Carpenter stated that he was unable to attend the previous meeting, but had contacted Bob Schappacher as to what occurred at the meeting. At the Farmers Market, 180 seedlings were given away. The remainder of the seedlings were planted in the City Tree Nursery. The Tree City Proclamation was read by Council member Leslie Besl at the last council meeting. A fresh air program is being reviewed by the Environmental Commission. The next meeting will be held on June 2, 2021.

Cultural Arts Advisory Commission: Acting Director, Brad Williams reported that the theatre is slowly getting back to normal. We have a couple rentals in May and total operating procedures will open on June 2, 2021. We have begun to operate the ticketing sales with our in-house software.

School Board Report: Scott Clark informed the Board that the prom was held last week and it went very well. Graduation will be on May 29, 2021 in person at the CINTAS Center with two sessions being held. A through L will be at 10:00am and M through Z will be at 1:00pm.

Golf Course Ad Hoc Committee: Doug Meece stated that the Golf Course Ad Hoc Committee has not had a recent meeting. Mr. Meece reported that the golf season is up and running but the weather has been very wet. Staff is busy with completing maintenance projects.

City Council Report: Council member, Leslie Besl informed the Board the Fire Department presented at the last Council Manager Briefing. Chief Bennet stated the City is in dire need of firefighters. His recommendation is that the City needs to transition part time firefighters to full time. We are losing valuable employees to surrounding communities who are offering full time positions. Ms. Besl stated their most likely will be a levy on the ballot in the spring.

Council has interviewed management firms to select the one to help with the process of hiring a new City Manager.

ART Metals Group is planning an expansion on Symmes Road.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Acting Director, Brad Williams, informed the Board that at the next Council meeting, a Proclamation will be presented to Dick Wissman, who retired from the City during COVID. Mr. Wissman will be honored for his 50 years of service to the City of Fairfield in various roles.

The Parks Department will be presenting at the next Council Manager Briefing.

Mr. Williams reviewed the Enterprise financials with the Board. Revenue is significantly up in the Activity fund due to being able to finally schedule some programming. Golf revenue is slightly up from last year. The Memorial Day Parade will be a drive by parade. The Department has been working with the Police Department on the stop locations along the route.

Tomorrow evening's Farmers Market will be held in the parking lot and will be offering live music as well as the presence of Food Trucks.

Mr. Williams reported to the Board two patio expansion projects for the Parks Department. First, Mr. Williams reviewed the plans for the addition of a 40' x 40' patio with a covered awning that will expand our rental opportunities at the Elisha Morgan Mansion. The plans also include a sidewalk to go around the building. Secondly, the Department is going out for engineering for designs to extend the patio at the South Trace Clubhouse. This project will also add to the usage of this facility for rentals and events.

In conjunction with the Butler County Visitors Bureau, the Furfield Dog Park was selected as a site for Hydrophobic Art (sidewalk art). When wet, the art appears.

CAPRA Renewal Accreditation: Mr. Williams informed the Board that this year will be a virtual process. The visit will be June 7 through June 11.

Acting Director, Mr. Williams, explained to the Board that we will be opening operations and lifting restrictions from COVID on June 2, 2021.

OLD BUSINESS:

CAAC discussion tabled

NEW BUSINESS:

Vote was taken for Resolution 2021-08: Mount Pleasant Blacktopping. The resolution was unanimously approved (one member, Paul Assum was absent).

Reorganization of Board:

Doug Meece was nominated for reappointment to the position of Chair. A vote was taken and Doug Meece was elected as Chair of the Parks Board.

Gwen Ritchie was nominated for reappointment to the position of Vice Chair. A vote was taken and Gwen Ritchie was elected as Vice Chair of the Parks Board.

Cyndi Kreke was nominated for reappointed to the position of Secretary to the Board. A vote was taken and Cyndi Kreke was elected as Secretary to the Board.

Scott Clark informed the Board, the Rotarians would like to plant a tree be planted in memory of Regan Vanoss. Brad Williams stated that he would be in contact with Mr. Clark to discuss this issue and the process involved.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

The next scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board will be held on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at the Fairfield Community Arts Center.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Executive session entered into at 7:51 pm.

Executive session exited at 8:07pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made and seconded for adjournment. The Parks and Recreation Board meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Cyndi A Kreke,

Board Secretary