

FAIRFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MINUTES

September 17, 2019

The monthly meeting of the Fairfield Parks and Recreation Board was conducted on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at the Thomas O Marsh Fishing Lake. Chairman Doug Meece called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Board Members in attendance were: Doug Meece, Craig Keller, Don Carpenter, Gwen Ritchie, Paul Assum, Christine Zboril and Dale Paullus. Staff members in attendance were Dan Wendt, Assistant City Manager and Acting Parks and Recreation Director; Bob Schappacher, Parks Maintenance Superintendent; Brad Williams, Recreation Superintendent; Heidi Schiller, Arts and Hospitality Superintendent and Cyndi Kreke, Board Secretary.

Also in attendance was audience member: Cincinnati Off-Road Alliance representative, Alex Maier.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS & CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

After review of the August meeting minutes, Chairman Doug Meece requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes from August 20, 2019. A motion was made and seconded and the minutes were approved as presented.

REPORT OF OTHER BOARDS & COMMISSIONS / AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Planning Commission: Dale Paullus stated that a conditional use permit (remodeling) was granted for 925 Deis Drive. This is the address for the Telohio Bank.

Environmental Commission: Gwen Ritchie informed the Board that the last meeting of the Environmental Commission was a joint meeting with the City of Hamilton. Ms. Ritchie stated that the meeting went very well. Hopefully, the grant is received for the "Taking Root" program that we are doing jointly with the City of Hamilton.

Cultural Arts Advisory Commission: Paul Assum reported that the CAAC is currently judging the entries for the Annual Community Artist Showcase.

Heidi Schiller stated the summer event season is winding down. The 2019 Car Show was held this past weekend. The show was well attended with over 240 car entries. Ms. Schiller also stated that the kickoff for the new Art Season will be October 4th.

School Board Report: Christine Zboril informed the Board the Police responded immediately to the threat made against the Freshman School on Friday, September 13th. The situation was handled very professionally and circumstances were well under control. Ms. Zboril complimented the Police Department on how they handled the situation.

Christine stated that the Football Team was off to a good start of their season.

Ms. Zboril also informed the Board of an upcoming new event for the Choraliers called the "Fall Gala" which will be held at the Oscar Center on October 22, 2019 at 7:00 PM. This event will showcase exhibitions from all the show choirs. There are three ticket levels for this event.

Golf Course Ad Hoc Committee: Doug Meece reported that there was not a meeting of the golf course ad hoc committee. Mr. Meece asked the Board for their feedback from the tour of the golf course that was taken after the August meeting.

Board members Don Carpenter, Dale Paullus and Craig Keller stated that they observed signs of improvements as well as conditions that still need work. They stated they understand the progression of the conditions will take time.

Mr. Meece stated that he feels the health of the turf saw improvements in May and June but has deteriorated in the month of July. Mr. Meece stated that compared to other courses he has visited, he feels Fairfield Greens is in worse shape. Mr. Meece recommended that if feasible, he would like the Board to consider hiring a professional consultant to render their opinion on the improvement plan being implemented at the golf courses. Mr. Wendt informed the Board that he would follow up with Director Tiphonie Howard regarding this suggestion.

City Council Report: Council Member Craig Keller informed the Board that at the previous Council meeting they had the first reading of the new proposed dog legislation.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Mr. Dan Wendt introduced himself to the Board members. Mr. Wendt is the Assistant City Manager for the City of Fairfield and the Acting Parks & Recreation Director in the absence of Tiphonie Howard. Mr. Wendt presented the Board with handouts (Director's Updates / Fairfield Forward Comprehensive Plan / Future Land Use Map).

FurField Dog Park Grand Opening: The opening of the dog park is scheduled for Saturday, October 12, 2019 from 10:00am to Noon. Mr. Wendt stated that there will be a shuttle service from Marsh Lake to the dog park location. Neighbors near the dog park will be notified of the event and the on-street parking procedures.

Wheeler Property Acquisition: Mr. Wendt informed the Board of the process of the Wheeler Property Acquisition. This is a 7 acre parcel located behind Applebees. The intent for the property is green space and possible trail extension. No city funds will be used. The conditions are a 75/25 in kind match from the current property owner. The Clean Ohio Grant was submitted on September 13, 2019. The presentation to the Natural Resource Assistance Council will be on September 26th. Grants will be awarded on October 3rd.

Comprehensive Plan: The Fairfield Forward City of Fairfield Comprehensive Plan Executive Summary Report was distributed to the Board members for their review. Mr. Wendt also distributed a future land use map of the City of Fairfield. He informed the Board that there would be an Open House on September 24th at the Community Arts Center at 6pm. This is a public forum inviting the community to become involved and informed.

Parade of Lights: A new holiday event called the "Parade of Lights" will occur on December 1, 2019 from 4pm to 7pm. This event will be a parade of entries that will be lit up and travel down Wessel Drive to Village Green. Applications for entry are on www.fairfieldoh.gov. City department entries as well as public entries are encouraged to participate.

Operating Budget Parks Financials: Mr. Wendt explained to the Board the process currently in progress for the 2020 Operating Budget. Departmental hearings are being completed this week. Financial Director Scott Timmer will submit a summary to the City Manager later this week.

The Parks Operating Budget comparison for 2018-19 was distributed to the Board. This report also showed the year to date August 2018-19 comparisons for revenues and expenses. The cost recovery for 2019 was 92% for enterprise activities.

Brand Identity Initiative: The City is currently in the process of brand identity initiative. City Staff will travel to Covington to participate in an interactive workshop with BLDG. Concepts will go to the taskforce in early October and will meet individually with Members of City Council.

Communications / Drones: Communications Manager, Jenny Dexter is working with a professional on stock videos of public spaces. Ms. Dexter identified events (Cyclecross at Harbin Park, Dog Park Grand Opening, Farm R Treat) where filming will take place.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Due to the holiday on Monday, October 14, 2019, the City Council meeting is being moved to Tuesday, October 15th. This is the same day as the regular scheduled meeting of the Parks Board. The Board discussed an alternate meeting date for October. It was decided to move the October meeting to the fourth Tuesday of the month which will be Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at 6:00 PM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made and seconded for adjournment. The Parks and Recreation Board meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

MEETING SCHEDULE: The next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board is scheduled for Tuesday, October 22, 6:00 PM, at the Fairfield Community Arts Center, 411 Wessel Drive, Fairfield OH.

Cyndi A Kreke
Board Secretary