

FAIRFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES
Tuesday, October 22, 2019

The monthly meeting of the Fairfield Parks and Recreation Board was conducted on Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at the Fairfield Community Arts Center. 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 Tiphonie Howard, 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: Per request by the Assistant City Manager, Dan Wendt, the September 17, 2019 draft minutes will be distributed after his review upon his return October 24th. The approval of both the September and October minutes will be at the November Parks Board meeting.

REPORT OF OTHER BOARDS & COMMISSIONS / AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Planning Commission: Dale Paullus stated that the Planning Commission awarded a conditional use permit for a new self- storage location behind Arbys. The Commission went over design updates and proposed code changes. Mr. Paullus also reported that a conditional use permit for a trucking company warehouse on Hicks Boulevard was put on hold due to the fact that the owner was a no show. Tiphonie Howard offered the information that The Grand Opening of the new Chick-Fil-A will be November 21, 2019.

Environmental Commission: Gwen Ritchie reported that the Environmental Commission participated in the Farmer Treat event and distributed candy. The commission had one member that dressed up like a tree walking around.

On Thursday, October 17th, the commission helped with the Izaak Walton tree planting program at Water Works. Fifty trees (oaks, pines and maples) were planted.

Ms. Ritchie stated that the commission will find out in early 2020 if they will receive the grant for the "Taking Root" joint project with the City of Hamilton. The grant is for 250 new good sized trees of different varieties.

In the spring of 2020, the commission is hoping to have requests for new members to fill the vacant positions. Ms. Ritchie asked that the Board spread the word to Fairfield residents to consider becoming an EC member. The Board discussed different ways to get the word out to people interested in serving on commissions.

Cultural Arts Advisory Commission: Paul Assum deferred to Heidi Schiller since he was not in attendance at the last meeting of the CAAC. Ms. Schiller stated that due to a lack of quorum, there was no meeting. Ms. Schiller informed the Board that the "Crossword Puzzle" event that was to be held in November was cancelled due to lack of enrollment. Only eight people registered to participate in the event.

School Board Report: Christine Zboril reported that the Fairfield football team is having a successful season and is currently undefeated. Presale tickets are on sale for the playoffs. Ms. Zboril also stated that the schools are into the show choir season.

Golf Course Ad Hoc Committee: Doug Meece informed the Board that the ad hoc committee did not have a meeting. Doug deferred to Brad Williams for updates on the golf course.

Mr. Williams stated that the golf course had a great fall season. The last big outing of the year was held this past weekend. Mr. Williams said that this Sunday would be the last day of operation for the North Trace golf course.

Mr. Paullus asked about the crabgrass problem and if the request to hire a consultant was being pursued. Director Howard stated that she has 23 years of experience in course management and has a process/plan in place for improving the conditions of the courses. Ms. Howard has been using the education piece to show the decision makers what this process/plan entails. Ms. Howard also addressed the question from Board member Doug Meece regarding funding being dropped. Ms. Howard explained the difference between capital funds and regular budgetary funds. Funding relies heavily on the revenue brought in from the golf course. Her proposal for a 7 percent increase was positively received.

Ms. Howard stated that she has staff documenting the progression through photographs taken every month of the same tees. Derek Baxter and the Superintendent from Blue Ash meet on a regular basis to discuss the course. She stated that on a positive note, the City Manager is now playing golf, which helps when advocating for funds.

City Council Report: Council Member Craig Keller reported that at the last Council meeting Council voted to keep the pit bull ban.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Director Tiphonie Howard reminded the Board that the Volunteer Boards and Commissions Dinner will be held on Thursday, November 7, 2019 at the Fairfield Community Arts Center. The reception begins at 5:30 and dinner will be served at 6:00pm.

The grant was awarded to the City of Fairfield for the purchase of the Wheeler Property. The intent is to keep the land native. In the future, the land may become Park property.

The new "Parade of Lights" will take place on Sunday, December 1, 2019. We have almost 20 entries so far and hope to receive more. We are hoping to recruit a band to participate in the event.

The Dog Park Opening was a huge success. The Department received many positive comments. Current issues to be addressed are parking, lighting and security. Rules are posted at the park. Enforcing the rules is a police issue.

Ms. Howard stated that she will be giving her 2020 Budget presentation at the October 28th Council, Manager Briefing.

Ms. Howard distributed financial numbers to the Board for review. We are at 94 percent cost recovery this year with our enterprise funds.

A recycling event will be held on Saturday, November 16th at the North Trace / Aquatic Center parking lot. This event is being hosted by Rumpke recycling and the Public Works Department in honor of recycling day.

Due to Parks Staff attending the OPRA Leadership Summit November 19 and November 20, 2019, Tiphonie Howard requested that the November Parks Board meeting be rescheduled or cancelled. Discussion followed and it was agreed by the Board that the November meeting would be held on Tuesday, November 26, 2019 at 6:00pm. The location of the meeting will be at the Fairfield Greens South Trace Golf Clubhouse. Staff will send notice to the Board if this location changes.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Paul Assum stated that he considers the new Dog Park the most beautiful he has ever seen. He has spoken to several visitors and has heard nothing but positive remarks. He did have a request for another dog pot station closer to the parking lot. Tiphonie also gave her staff credit for all their hard work.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made and seconded for adjournment. The Parks and Recreation Board meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

MEETING SCHEDULE: The next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board is scheduled for Tuesday, November 26, 6:00 PM, at the Fairfield Greens South Trace Clubhouse, 2200 John Gray Road, Fairfield OH.

Cyndi A Kreke
Board Secretary