

## FAIRFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

### MINUTES

TUESDAY APRIL 10, 2012

The monthly meeting of the Fairfield Parks and Recreation Board was conducted on Tuesday, April 10, 2012, at the Fairfield Community Arts Center. Chair Doug Meece called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Board Members in attendance were: Dr. Stanley Goodman, Marty Judd, Doug Meece, and Terry Senger. A motion was made and approved to excuse Board Members Bob Breen, Bob Myron and Richard Wood. Staff members in attendance were: James Bell, Parks and Recreation Director; Bob Schappacher, Facilities/Operations Manager; Heidi Schiller, Arts/Programs Manager; Ben Strickler, Community Events Coordinator; and Cyndi Kreke, Secretary.

**COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** None

**MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The March meeting minutes were approved as presented.

#### REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR:

**Operations Revenue/Expense Report (February 2012):** Jim Bell reviewed the February operations and expense report (attached). Mr. Bell commented that the unseasonably mild winter/spring had been a boost to the golf operations; golf rounds through March 2012 are 4,336 rounds, compared to 1,906 (2011) and 1,971 (2010).

**Field of Dreams/Miracle League Fields/Hatton Park Project Update:** Jim Bell reported that the project was ahead of schedule, due to the mild winter/spring weather, and the Committee was planning a ribbon cutting/dedication ceremony on June 10, 2012 and a grand opening ceremony on July 28, 2012. The significance of the June 10<sup>th</sup> date was to commemorate Joe Nuxhall's first major league appearance. As invitations/further information is received, it will be forwarded to the Board.

**Huffman Park Update:** Jim Bell reported that the project was progressing and the mild winter/spring was assisting in the earth moving portion of the project. It is anticipated that the park will have a grand-opening ceremony in October 2012 and the full-time programming will begin in spring 2013. The Board requested a tour of the site and it was decided to host the May meeting at the Fairfield Greens/South Trace Golf Course clubhouse; adjacent to the park site.

**Marsh Park/Black Bottom Park:** Jim Bell updated the Board on an erosion issue at Marsh Park; caused by the storm water drainage system from the Lake Mead Drive area. The problem area is on the south-east corner of the park, where the storm water pipe discharges into the lake. The Parks Maintenance staff has arranged with the Public Works Department to use the discarded sidewalk concrete, from the sidewalk replacement program, as rip-rap, to stabilize the area. The concrete will be stored at the Black Bottom Park and the excess will be used to "cap" the area that was used as a lime disposal area by the Cincinnati Water Works.

**MASC:** Jim Bell reported that the Mid America Soccer Classic would be held the weekends of April 13-15 (girls division) and April 20-22 (boys division).

**Golf Course Inquiry/Additional Compensation (Tips):** Jim Bell stated that he had received an inquiry regarding the “new tips policy” at the golf course, whereas staff was no longer allowed to accept tips. Mr. Bell stated that this was not a new policy; but it had been reiterated to staff that as city employees, the acceptance of tips is prohibited, and the golf professionals were now enforcing the policy. Mr. Bell distributed a copy of the City’s employee manual, that references the City’s ethics policy and states “A public official or employee is prohibited from receiving compensation, in addition to that paid by his public agency, for performing his official duties” (attached). Mr. Bell reminded the Board that quite a few issues came to the forefront when City Council asked the Board to investigate a military discount policy (free unauthorized admissions to elected officials, volunteers and employees; unauthorized compensation and/or “policies”; etc., at the Golf Courses and Marsh Park) in August 2012 and the golf course staff and Marsh Park staff were directed to follow policy. It was also discussed that part of the departmental reorganization was to provide additional oversight to divisions that had become lax due to lack of supervision. Mr. Meece and Mr. Senger commented that they had received complaints from golfers; that it was insulting to the golfers and employees that they are no longer allowed to tip or accept tips. Mr. Bell stated that any tips that were received were supposedly deposited in the golf course revenues, per policy, by the staff. Mr. Meece stated that it was a culture amongst golfers to tip and by not accepting the tips would diminish the reputation of the golf course and golfers would not want their tips to be deposited. It was stated that other golf courses allowed their employees to accept tips and the leagues/outings would leave the Fairfield golf courses and go to other courses were this practice is accepted. The Board asked that John Clemmons, Law Director, review this tipping policy and submit a legal opinion regarding the acceptance of tips by golf course employees. Marty Judd commented that this was a slippery slope and that opening up one category of employee to accept tips would create a problem; “what if someone wanted to tip his/her snowplow driver for doing a good job on their street, etc.”.

Mr. Bell stated that he would contact Mr. Clemmons and request a legal opinion.

#### **REPORTS OF AD HOC COMMITTEES:**

**City Council Update:** Mr. Senger stated that City Council had the third reading on placing the income tax reallocation initiative on the November ballot. Mr. Senger also reported on the Veterans Event scheduled for June 30<sup>th</sup> and the Memorial Day Parade/Ceremony scheduled for May 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Planning Commission Update:** No Report

**Environmental Commission Update:** Jim Bell reported that Mitch Rhodus was an applicant for the Environmental Commission; but was reconsidering his appointment, since he was a vendor for the City (Mr. Rhodus would have to forfeit business with the City, if he is appointed). Mr. Bell stated that he had discussed this matter with Mr. Rhodus and was awaiting his decision. Mr. Bell questioned the Board if they desired to interview Mr. Rhodus, since he had previously served on both the Parks and Recreation Board and City Council? The Board decided that it was unnecessary to re-interview Mr. Rhodus and would appoint him to the Commission, if he decides to serve.

**Cultural Arts Advisory Commission Update:** Doctor Goodman and Heidi Schiller reported the Taft Museum’s Arts for All project (Taft’s 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration) and the placement of artwork throughout the park system by the Taft Museum. They also reported on the upcoming ArtsWave’s Community Arts Centers Day, which is scheduled for August.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Marty Judd asked if Brady Seals would be performing this year in any of the Parks concert programs. Ben Strickler replied that Brady Seals was not on this year's schedule due to scheduling conflicts.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Appointments to Advisory Committees:** The Board interviewed Mr. Brian DeRoo for a position on the Environmental Commission and Ms. Bekka Eaton for a position on the Cultural Arts Advisory Commission. Following the interview, it was moved and seconded that the Board recommend to Fairfield City Council that Ms. Eaton and Mr. DeRoo be appointed to their respective Commissions. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Mariella Richardson was scheduled for an interview for a position on the Cultural Arts Advisory Commission; but did not show up for her interview. This was the second scheduled interview with Ms. Richardson, upon which she has failed to show up and/or contact the Board regarding her absence. The Board removed Ms. Richardson from consideration.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

The Board adjourned the meeting at 7:30 PM. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, May 8, 2012, at 5:30 PM, at the Fairfield Greens/South Trace Golf Course.

Cyndi A. Kreke,  
Secretary