

## FAIRFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

### MINUTES

APRIL 21, 2015

The monthly meeting of the Fairfield Parks and Recreation Board was conducted on Tuesday, April 21, 2015, at the Fairfield Community Arts Center. Chair Doug Meece called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Board Members in attendance were: Dean Bruewer, Doug Meece, Bob Myron, Debbie Pennington and Rodney Spencer. Board members Craig Keller and Billy Smith were excused from the meeting. Staff member in attendance were James Bell, Director; Bob Schappacher, Facilities/Operations Manager; Heidi Schiller, Arts/Programs Manager; and Cyndi Kreke, Secretary.

**COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** Chairman Meece welcomed new Board Member, Dean Bruewer to the meeting.

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

#### **REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR:**

**Earth Day Celebration Update:** Jim Bell reported that the City and Duke Energy had partnered to celebrate Earth Day at Huffman Park on April 22, 2015, 10:00 AM. Duke Energy had donated approximately \$1,000.00 to the parks system for tree plantings at Huffman Park. A ceremonial tree planting will occur at Huffman Park on Earth Day with representatives of the City and Duke Energy participating. The Department will be distributing Earth Day T-shirts to all participants.

**Volunteer Appreciation Dinner:** Jim Bell reminded that Board of the City's Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on April 23, 2015, at the Fairfield Community Arts Center. The event will begin at 5:30 PM.

**Summer Meeting Schedule:** Jim Bell asked if the Board would like to continue its tradition of meeting at different park sites during the summer months. It was the consensus of the Board that there was value in meeting at different parks facilities during the summer months and a meeting schedule would be discussed under new business.

**Memorial Day Parade, Remembrance Ceremony and Gold Star Families Memorial Dedication:** Jim Bell updated the Board on the Memorial Day events, scheduled for May 25, 2015. The Parade will step off at 10 AM, following the previous year's route (Dixie/Hicks, to Nilles, to Bibury, to Wessel, ending at Veterans Memorial Park). The Remembrance/Dedication Ceremony will begin immediately following the ending of the parade, approximately 11:00 AM. Mr. Hershel "Woody" Williams, founder of the Gold Star Families Foundation and WWII Medal of Honor Recipient (Iwo Jima) will be in attendance for the dedication of the memorial.

**Harbin Park Design Study:** Jim Bell reported that staff was in the process of preparing the Request for Proposals for the Harbin Park Conceptual Design Study. Once the RFP's are received, the staff's recommendations will be forwarded to the Board to award the project. The RFP selection/recommendations should be completed by late summer.

Mr. Bell stated that this may be a good point to discuss several concerns that had been raised by Rodney Spencer regarding Harbin Park, in a series of emails to the Board. Mr. Spencer addressed the Board and presented a brief report (attached) regarding his concerns with parking, park maintenance practices, park cyclists and memorial tree artifacts. The Board discussed Mr. Spencer's concerns, but no action was taken.

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

**City Council Update:** Debbie Pennington reported that at a recent City Council meeting she served as Vice Mayor, announced the Earth Day event and that the City Council had approved the 2015-2019 Capital Improvement Program. Mrs. Pennington also reported that the Historical Society had its spring programming agenda finalized and invited the Board to attend the meetings; the next meeting's speaker was local historian, Tom Stander.

**Planning Commission Update:** Bob Myron reported that at a recent Planning Commission meeting the Commission had approved a Day Care on Woodridge Boulevard and conducted a public hearing on The Cove at Village Green PUD.

**Environmental Commission Update:** Rodney Spencer reported that the Environmental Commission had participated in the City's Home Expo event and that members had attended the Tree City USA Awards Luncheon in Wyoming, OH. Mr. Spencer reported that the collaborative project between Miami University and the EC to update the street tree inventory had been cancelled, due to time constraints of the MU students. The EC was investigating the possibility of the Tree Commission Academy and/or software to assist in the update of the street tree inventory.

**Cultural Arts Advisory Commission Update:** No report

**Golf Course Ad Hoc Committee:** Doug Meece reported that the Phase 2 Irrigation project at South Trace was almost completed and that a series of minor improvements had been completed during the spring months. The golf course continues to investigate different fairway cuts to enhance play and aesthetics. Mr. Meece commented on the up-coming partnership between the golf courses and the Fairfield Miles of Golf business.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Parks and Recreation Board Re-Organization:** Jim Bell reminded the Board that per the Parks and Recreation Board's rules and regulations its annual re-organization was scheduled for the May meeting. At that meeting, the Board would select its Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Planning Commission Representative and Ad Hoc Committee Assignees for the next year.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Summer Meeting Schedule:** It was moved and seconded to approve the summer Parks and Recreation Board meeting schedule as follows:

May, 19, 2015 – Morgan Mansion, 6181 Ross Road, 6:00 PM

June 16, 2015 – Huffman Park, 2100 John Gray Road, 6:00 PM

July 21, 2015 – South Trace Golf Course/Phalen Center, 2200 John Gray Road, 6:00 PM

August 18, 2015, Marsh Park, 6440 River Road, 6:00 PM

The motion passed unanimously.

**COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2015, at 6:00 PM, at the Elisha Morgan Mansion.

Cyndi A. Kreke,  
Secretary