

FAIRFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2012

The monthly meeting of the Fairfield Parks and Recreation Board was conducted on Tuesday, January 10, 2012, at the Fairfield Community Arts Center. Chair Doug Meece called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM. Board Members in attendance were: Bob Breen, Dr. Stanley Goodman, Marty Judd, Doug Meece, Bob Myron, Terry Senger and Richard Wood. Jim Bell, Parks and Recreation Director, was in attendance.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: Doug Meece welcomed newly appointed member, Marty Judd, to the Board. Jim Bell commented that Mr. Judd was filling the unexpired term of Mr. Don Hassler, who had resigned in January to fill the 2nd Ward Planning Commission vacancy. Mr. Bell stated that Mr. Judd and Mr. Breen's terms were set to expire this spring, and it would be necessary for both to re-apply to City Council for another term on the Board. It was believed that both had received applications for renewal.

MINTUES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the regular Board meeting of December 6, 2011. The minutes were approved as written.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Operations Revenue/Expense Report (November 2011): Jim Bell reviewed the operations revenue/expense report with the Board. Mr. Bell reported that revenues were down by approximately 10% within the Recreation Facilities Fund; but that expenses were down by approximately 5%. Mr. Bell stated that the weather was a negative factor in 2011, with the wet spring and hot summer; rounds were down by 9,731 from 2010 to 2011. The golf courses played 58,691 rounds in 2010 and 48,960 rounds in 2011. Mr. Bell stated that with recent mild weather, the golf course was getting play in January.

Huffman Park Development and Maintenance Agreement Amendment: Jim Bell reported that the bids had been awarded for the construction of the Huffman Park Project; and that City Council had begun the legislative process to enter into an agreement with Jeffrey Allen Corporation for the construction of the park. Mr. Bell stated that the initial agreement, which the Board had approved in December, had been amended since the Anna & Harold W. Huffman Foundation had donated more funds to the project (attached). Resolution 2012-01 has been prepared to allow the Board to ratify the amended agreement and accept the additional donation under New Business. Mr. Judd asked what was the total value of the donation from the Huffman Foundation and Trust? Mr. Bell stated that the Huffman Foundation/Trust had donated the 22 acre parcel, \$50,000.00 for the A/E construction documents, an initial \$550,000.00 donation of funds, and the additional \$310,000.00 of funds. The approximate land value was projected at \$30,000.00 - \$50, 000.00 per acre, based upon what the City had paid for the Poindexter property, east of the golf course. Mr. Breen asked, on behalf of the Environmental Commission, if appropriate signage and plaques would be placed on site to recognize the Huffman Family's generosity to the City. Mr. Bell replied in the affirmative.

Field of Dreams Agreement: Jim Bell reviewed the agreement between the City and the Therapeutic Recreation for the Disabled, Inc., and the Fairfield Community Foundation, DBA Joe Nuxhall Character Education Fund for the construction and operation of the Field of Dreams recreation complex on Groh Lane (attached). Jim Bell stated that the Board had initially reviewed the agreement draft in early 2010, when the Foundation was in its early stages of fund raising and that the agreement was similar to those of other youth sports organizations that operate youth sports programs on city property. The fund raising efforts have been successful and the construction of the project has begun; and City Council has begun the legislative process to enter into the agreement. Mr. Judd asked if the Challenger League was associated with this project; Mr. Bell replied that the Therapeutic Recreation for the Disabled was the sponsoring body of the Challenger League and planned to move the Challenger League from the Civitan Club to the Field of Dreams property. Mr. Breen asked if there was a reporting mechanism in place with the group to the Board, similar to FYBA. Mr. Bell stated that the agreement had a clause that required the group to provide a report to the Board at the end of each fiscal year. Resolution 2012-02 has been prepared to allow the Board to approve the agreement under New Business.

2012 Fees/Charges: Jim Bell reviewed the preliminary fees/charges documents with the Board; Mr Bell stated that the entire document would be forwarded to the Board prior to the February meeting. Mr. Bell reported that staff was considering the fees/charges document would be separated into several documents; golf, aquatics, Marsh Park and rentals; rather than the traditional document of all fees/charges on one resolution. Mr. Bell stated that staff had been doing some “house-keeping” of the document in order to have consistency throughout its fees/charges. Mr. Bell also reported that the Golf Course was reviewing its association with the First Tee Program; stating that the First Tee Program was increasing its membership fee for the golf course to approximately \$8,000.00, from approximately \$1,500.00 the previous year. Mr. Bell stated that the golf courses had been running junior golf programs (R.E.A.C.H. program) and junior golf camps for many years prior to the inception of First Tee and would continue to do so. The Board concurred that the costs associated with First Tee did not bear out the benefits.

Parks and Recreation Department Re-Organization: Jim Bell reported that the department is going through a re-organization and reviewed the 2011 organizational chart and the new 2012 organizational chart (attached). Mr. Bell stated that one of his goals/objectives for his 2011-2012 performance appraisals was the reorganization of the department, to allow for a more efficient operation and delivery of services. In the spring of 2011, he had solicited input from the professional staff and subsequently met with the Human Resources Division and the Assistant City Manager’s office to model the re-organization. In December, the re-organization was rolled out to staff and the transition began; staff was met with collectively and individually. The re-organization would not become official until City Council passes its 2012 Wage/Salary ordinance and City Organizational Chart ordinance; but effectively the department was operating under the new system. Under the re-organization, no staff received a raise or a decrease in pay and no staff position was lost. The re-organization removed ethical, legal and familiar issues, aligned the divisions and provided a good line for communications throughout the organization. Mr. Doug Meece stated that he was aware of the re-organization and that he, Terry Senger, Art Pizzano and Jim Bell had met to discuss the matter.

2012-2016 Capital Improvement Program: Jim Bell stated that the City had begun the planning process for the 2012-2016 CIP; but that in the financial constraints of the next several years, projects would be mostly maintenance related. Mr. Bell stated that thorough private funding the Department had two large projects on-going (Huffman Park and Field of Dreams). Mr. Breen questioned the Black Bottom Park project and the availability of private and/or state funds. Mr. Bell responded that he would investigate the state grant funding, but was not

anticipating much assistance from the state, due to its financial constraints too. Mr. Bell reminded that Board that City Council had requested that only grant funds be used for major parks projects; specifically Black Bottom.

REPORTS OF AD HOC COMMITTEES:

City Council Update: Terry Senger stated that the new Council had been seated and had its first meeting on Monday, January 9th. Mr. Senger reported that the Huffman Park project and the Field of Dreams agreement were on City Council's agenda. Mr. Senger asked to be excused from the meeting, due to a prior commitment. Mr. Senger left the meeting at 6:25 PM.

Planning Commission Update: No report. Chairman Doug Meece asked if Mr. Bob Myron would serve as the Board's representative to the Planning Commission. Mr. Myron agreed and was appointed.

Environmental Commission Update: Bob Breen reported that the Environmental Commission met and it was reported by a member that the EAB had been reported in western Butler County. The Commission had requested that Mr. Ben Strickler investigate the report. Mr. Breen stated that the EC was in the process of updating the EAB management plan and was investigating the inclusion of the Asian Long-Horned Beetle into the management plan. Mr. Bell stated that Mr. Ben Strickler and Mr. Greg Morrow had recently attended an Asian Long-Horned Beetle seminar sponsored by the Hamilton County Parks District, the USDA and ODNR.

Cultural Arts Advisory Commission Update: Dr. Goodman reported that there was not a December meeting of the CAAC; but he would be leaving the Board meeting to attend the CAAC this evening.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 12-01: It was moved and seconded that the Board ratify the Amendment to the Huffman Park Development and Maintenance Agreement between the City of Fairfield and the Anna & Harold W. Huffman Foundation in accordance with the agreement on file in the office of the City Manager. Resolution 12-01 was passed unanimously.

Resolution 12-02: It was moved and seconded that the Board authorized the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Therapeutic Recreation for the Disabled, inc., and the Fairfield Community Foundation, DBA Joe Nuxhall Character Education Fund for the construction and operation of the Field of Dreams recreation complex. Resolution 12-02 was passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

The Board adjourned the meeting at 6:40 PM. The next regular monthly meeting of the Board is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, February 14, 2012, at 5:30 PM, at the Community Arts Center.

Cyndi A Kreke
Secretary