

## FAIRFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

### MINUTES

**JULY 19, 2016**

The monthly meeting of the Fairfield Parks and Recreation Board was conducted on Tuesday, July 19, 2016, at William Harbin Park. Chair Doug Meece called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. Board Members in attendance were: Dean Bruewer, Doug Meece, Dale Paullus and Billy Smith. Board Members Dennis Miller and Debbie Pennington were excused. Staff members in attendance were: James Bell, Director; Heidi Schiller, Arts/Programs Manager; Robert Schappacher, Parks/Facilities Manager; Brad Williams, Operations Coordinator; and Cyndi Kreke, Board Secretary. Also in attendance were Dave Whittington, Fairfield resident; Alex Mayer and Guy Stone, members of CORA.

The Board congratulated Billy Smith on his appointment as the Superintendent of the Fairfield City School District.

**COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** None

**MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The June Parks and Recreation Board meeting minutes were approved as presented.

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

**Second Quarter Financials (Recreation Facilities Fund):** Jim Bell and Brad Williams reviewed the second quarter financials, in regards to the Recreation Facilities Fund, with the Board (attached). The Board had received the information in their meeting packet. Mr. Bell also informed the Board that this afternoon he forwarded the City's June 2016 Tax Revenue Report to the Board, for perspective of how the City was faring financially.

**Fairfield/Hamilton Bike Trail Linkage:** Jim Bell stated that he had added this item to the agenda at Board Member Dean Bruewer's request. Mr. Bruewer stated that he had recently attended a City of Hamilton bike path linkage meeting and was interested in seeing some of the ideas instituted within the City of Fairfield (including bike lanes in all street projects, linkages between the cities, etc.). Mr. Bell stated that the recently completed Parks and Recreation Master Plan had connectivity as a goal, along with the City's Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Bell added that the Great Miami River Trail and/or the proposed M-2-M trail would link the major bikeways within the two cities, since most of the Hamilton paths were spurs of the GMRT; and Hamilton was using their abandoned rail lines for other paths (which Fairfield did not have those abandoned lines). The City was a member of the Green Umbrella/Tri State Trails initiative and was included in all the regional trails discussions. While the Board could advocate for the inclusion of bike lanes and/or paths within roadway projects, that policy decision would need to be made at the City Council level.

**Harbin Park Renovation Project:** Jim Bell, Bob Schappacher and Brad Williams reviewed the conceptual design drawings of the Harbin Park project with the Board. The next steps of the project would include forwarding the Board's comments to Brandstetter Carroll, setting an internal team meeting between the City team and the Brandstetter Carroll team, arranging local stakeholder meetings with Brandstetter Carroll (CORA and Disc Golf Association), and scheduling the next public input session in September. The Board's comments included insuring adequate parking, adequate restroom facilities, connectivity to neighborhoods, passive traffic calming devices; eliminate the Dog Park (for inclusion in the Marsh Park project) and proper shelter house configurations.

**Miscellaneous:** Jim Bell reported that City Council was in the process of advertising for the Parks and Recreation Board vacancy in the First Ward. Applications would be accepted through August 12<sup>th</sup>; after

which, City Council will interview the candidates and appoint a replacement member. The duration will be for the unexpired term of Bob Myron, who was recently appointed to City Council.

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

**City Council Update:** No Report

**Planning Commission Update:** Dale Paullus reported that at the Planning Commission had discussed a variety of issues in regards to the business district (the allowance/prohibition of security bars on windows in the business district and the use of LED lights to draw attention for businesses). Mr. Paullus reported that the Raising Canes restaurant was progressing, but behind schedule.

**School Board Update:** Billy Smith reported that his first meeting as Superintendent would be this week and the Board would be discussing re-districting, due to the addition of the new schools within the district.

**Environmental Commission Update:** Board member Dean Bruewer stated that he had missed the last Environmental Commission meeting and deferred his report to Bob Schappacher. Bob Schappacher reported that the Commission was a very diverse group and a variety of interests. New ideas are being approached, such as, electronic recycling and informative seminars. The Environmental Commission members will be conducting a trimming seminar at the Village Green Farmers Market in September.

**Cultural Arts Advisory Commission Update:** Jim Bell reported that the scheduling/booking for the 2016-2017 season had been completed and the Fairfield Signature Series would include a performance by Grammy-Award winning artist, Juice Newton.

**Golf /Aquatics Ad Hoc Committee:** Doug Meece stated that the Golf/Aquatics Ad Hoc committee had not met in July and deferred to Brad Williams to give an update on the upcoming City Golf Championships to be held at Fairfield Greens/South Trace; July 27<sup>th</sup>/Ladies, July 28<sup>th</sup>/Seniors and July 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>/Men's.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Jim Bell requested an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the purchase of real estate. It was moved and seconded to recess into Executive Session for the purposed stated by the Director; a roll call vote was unanimous.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Parks and Recreation Board meeting reconvened after Executive Session and adjourned at 7:05 PM. The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board is scheduled at the Fairfield Greens/North Trace and Fairfield Aquatic Center on Tuesday, August 16, 2016 at 6:00 PM.

Cyndi A. Kreke,  
Secretary