

## **FAIRFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**

### **MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2011**

The monthly meeting of the Fairfield Parks and Recreation Board was conducted on Tuesday, June 14, 2011 at the Fairfield Community Arts Center. Chair Doug Meece called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Board Members in attendance were: Bob Breen, Dr. Stanley Goodman, Don Hassler, Doug Meece, and Terry Senger. Board Members Bob Myron and Dick Wood were excused. Staff members present were: Jim Bell, Parks and Recreation Director; Heidi Schiller, Community Arts Center Manager; Bob Schappacher, Parks Facilities Manager; Cindi Lewellyn, Recreation Manager; Ben Strickler, Parks Events Manager and Cyndi Kreke, Secretary. Also in attendance was Environmental Commission candidate David Colteryahn.

**COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** None

**MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the May meeting. The minutes were approved as presented.

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

**Operations Reports (April 2011):** Jim Bell reviewed the April 2011 operations reports for revenues, expenses, and participation/programming numbers from the Golf Courses, Community Arts Center and the Recreation programs (attached). Mr. Bell commented that the golf course revenues were still showing the affect of the wet spring. The golf courses were down 4,256 rounds through May 2011 versus May 2010.

Jim Bell commented that in today's Journal News there was an article entitled "Tax Money Props Up Regional Golf Courses". Mr. Bell stated that he had not reviewed the article and would forward a copy of the article to the Board. Bob Schappacher commented that he had read the article; but neither Mr. Bell nor Mr. Schappacher had been contacted by the Journal News to comment on the article; although Mr. Schappacher had been contacted by the City's Finance Director to verify a few numbers.

**Proposed Gravel Operation/Symmes Road:** Jim Bell reported that the City had been contacted by Watson Gravel Company regarding a proposed gravel mining operation in the vicinity of Symmes Road, Tedia Way and Bolke Drive. The project will need approval from both the Planning Commission and the City Council; plus the Parks Board may be expected to accept the property once the mining operation has ended. Prior to being presented to the City for approval; the operator will need permitting from the State of Ohio; plus resolving groundwater issues. The Parks Board discussed the project and felt that it would be a better of option, if the mining operation is approved, for the

MetroParks of Butler County to be the end user of the property, due to its proximity to MetroParks' Gilmore Ponds Preserve. The Board would discuss further if the plan comes to fruition.

**Huffman Farm Property:** Jim Bell shared a conceptual design, created by the architectural firm retained by the Huffman estate, which depicted the outdoor learning center at the Huffman property (attached). The Board discussed the design and its concerns regarding the other half of the property upon which would be located the First Tee Golf Academy. The Board requested that staff prepare a preliminary cost estimate for the golf portion of the project; so the Board would be better informed on the entire cost of the project. Mr. Bell stated that staff would have that information prepared for the August Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

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

**City Council Update:** Terry Senger reported that the Jim Bell and Brad Williams had made a presentation to City Council at its last meeting regarding the City Council's 2011 Goals and Objectives, as related to Parks and Recreation. Mr. Senger also reported that the City was preparing for the July Red, White and Kaboom fireworks event and the August Hero's Ride event.

**Planning Commission Update:** No report

**Environmental Commission Update:** Bob Breen and Ben Strickler reported that the Commission had participated in the Great Miami River Sweep in May. The Commission had solicited approximately 50 volunteers to assist in the project. The Commission would be participating in the Village Green Fine Arts Fair in June, providing children's crafts.

**Cultural Arts Advisory Commission Update:** Doctor Goodman reported at the CAAC reviewed the upcoming 2011 Groovin' on the Green summer concert schedule at its last meeting.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Point Pleasant Park Basketball Courts:** Doug Meece reported that was approached by Mayor Ron D'Epifanio at the June 13<sup>th</sup> City Council/City Manager's Briefing regarding the Mayor's displeasure with the Parks and Recreation Board's inattentiveness to the illegal activities which are occurring at the Point Pleasant Park's basketball courts and his wish for the Board to remove the basketball courts from the park. Mr. Meece stated that he would bring the Mayor's concerns back to the Board; but from his understanding of the Police Department reports, the purported activities are not be observed. Mr. Meece also stated that he was awaiting a return phone call from the Police Chief to insure that he was interpreting the reports properly. The Board discussed and reiterated their previous position that the police should handle any illegal activities and that the removal of the basketball courts were not a solution to the purported problem. Several Board members

commented that they were frequently in and around Point Pleasant Park and observed none of the purported problems. Mr. Meece stated that he would contact the Mayor and relay the Board's opinion.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**2011 Board Reorganization:** It was moved and seconded that the Officers and Representatives remain the same from its 2010 slate. The motion passed unanimously. The Officers and Representatives are as follows: Doug Meece, Chair; Bob Myron, Vice-Chair; Cyndi Kreke, Secretary; Don Hassler, Planning Commission Representative; Bob Breen, Environmental Commission Representative; and Dr. Stanley Goodman, Cultural Arts Advisory Commission. All other times/meeting dates would remain the same.

**Environmental Commission Vacancy Interview:** The Parks and Recreation staff was dismissed and the Board interviewed Mr. David Colteryahn for the vacant seat on the Environmental Commission.

Following the interview, it was moved and seconded that the Board recommend to City Council that Mr. David Colteryahn be appointed to the Environmental Commission. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Board adjourned the meeting at 6:45 PM. The next monthly meeting of the Board is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, July 12, 2011, at 5:30 PM, at the Community Arts Center.

Cyndi A Kreke  
Secretary