

FAIRFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2009

The monthly meeting of the Fairfield Parks and Recreation Board was conducted on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at the Fairfield Community Arts Center. Chair Carol Oler called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Board members in attendance were: Carol Oler, Bob Myron, Don Hassler, Preston Johnson, Doug Meece and Bob Breen. Tim Meyers entered the meeting at 5:45 PM. Staff members present were: James A. Bell, Parks and Recreation Director; Bob Schappacher, Park Facilities Manager; Heidi Schiller, Community Arts Center Manager; Ben Strickler, Park Events Manager; Keith Crutcher, Golf Professional; Vivian Paul, Golf Concessions; Tim Bachman, Development Services Director; Erin Donovan, Planning Manager and Cyndi Kreke, Secretary.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None

MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING: The minutes from the February 2009 meeting were reviewed by the Board members. A motion was made and seconded to approve the February 2009 minutes. The minutes were approved as presented.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Golf Management Plan Updates: Keith Crutcher and Vivian Paul updated the Board on the golf courses' concession operations for 2009. Mr. Crutcher reported that the costs for merchandise/supplies were up and therefore an increase of approximately 25 cents across the board was anticipated. Even with these increases the golf courses concession pricing structure remains below the competition. Bob Schappacher and Keith Crutcher presented greens fees comparables for local golf courses, which highlighted the golf courses competitiveness with the competition, which was requested at last month's Board meeting during the fees/charges discussion.

Vivian Paul updated the Board on the South Trace Club House/Phalen Center's party and banquet rentals. Ms. Paul stated that an on-going request for a dance floor had limited the facilities rental potential and requested the Board consider the purchase and/or installation of a dance floor for the main room at the Phalen Center. Ms. Paul suggested a floor approximately 12' x 12' that would blend nicely with the current décor, but wanted the Board's input since during the construction phase of the facility, it was mentioned that the facility was being built to primarily accommodate the golfers. The Board concurred with Ms. Paul's suggestion.

Sustainability Plan: Jim Bell introduced Tim Bachman, Development Services Director and Erin Donovan, Planning Manager who were present to discuss the City of Fairfield's Comprehensive Plan and how the proposed Sustainability Plan fit within the Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan currently has a chapter devoted to sustainability and incorporating the Environmental Resources and Community Forest Commission's proposal within the current plan would achieve the Board's goal of having sustainability projects evaluated/reviewed on a periodic basis.

The Board concurred with staff's suggestion to incorporate sustainability plan into the City's Comprehensive Plan. It was moved and seconded to proceed as discussed, the motion was approved unanimously.

Operations Reports: Jim Bell reviewed the January 2009 operations updates regarding revenues, expenses, and participation/programming numbers from the Golf Courses, Community Arts Center and the Recreation programs (attached). Jim Bell reported that the transfer of the liquor license to the Community Arts Center from Symmes Tavern had been completed and that the beverage service operation at the facility was no longer operating under a management agreement with Symmes Tavern.

Capital Improvement Program: Jim Bell presented the Board with the summary pages of the Department's 2009-2013 Capital Improvement Program. Jim Bell reviewed the CIP and informed the Board that the City Council would be reviewing the City's entire CIP at their March 23, 2009 meeting (City Council/City Manager Briefing). Tim Meyers suggested that the Board members plan to attend this meeting of City Council.

Fertilizer and Chemical Bids: Jim Bell reviewed the 2009 Fertilizer and Chemical bids with the Board. Jim Bell stated that a contract will be needed with Turfgrass Inc., who received the major portion (approximately \$49,000.00) of the bids.

Memorial Day Parade/Remembrance Ceremony: The Board discussed the School Board's decision to have a "make-up" day of school on the Memorial Day Holiday and that decision's impact on the Memorial Day Parade and Remembrance Ceremony. Staff reported that they had had several meetings with members of the VFW, Am Vets and the Ladies Auxiliary, and it was felt that without total community participation and the logistic involved with moving the parade to a different day and/or time, that a temporary postponement of the parade was warranted. Several parade options were explored with the representatives of the Veterans organizations; along with representatives of the School District; but it was the opinion of the Veterans representatives that in lieu of the traditional Memorial Day parade; followed by the late morning ceremony the one year pause was acceptable. It was very important to the Veterans organizations that the traditional Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony remains as planned; with the raising of the flags back to full staff at 12:00 PM that day; at the conclusion of the ceremony. The Board was in concurrence with the resolution for this year. Several Board Members expressed disappointment with the School Board on their decision to hold school on holidays; rather than explore other options.

REPORTS OF AD HOC COMMITTEES:

City Council Update: Tim Meyers reported that City Council had been conducting the interviews for the vacant Board/Commission seats and that the appointments will be announced at future Council meeting. Tim Meyers informed the Board that the legislation for the Public Safety Tribute sculptures was removed from the table and passed at the last City Council meeting; the item had been tabled while City Council review the Fire Department's capital needs. Tim Meyers also reported on the proposed Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) between the City of City Fairfield, City of Springdale and West Chester Township.

Planning Commission Update: Don Hassler reported that the sale of the Cincinnati Mills Mall had been completed and is now operating under a new management company and has been re-named Cincinnati Mall.

Mr. Hassler discussed community recycling ideas/options that he observed while vacationing in Florida.

Environmental Resources and Community Forest Commission Update: Bob Breen stated that due to the cumbersome name currently held by the ERCFC, its members request that the Board forward to City Council a request to amend the ordinance change the name of the Environmental Resources Community Forest Commission to the Environmental Commission. The Board would take this request under advisement.

Cultural Arts Advisory Commission Update: Bob Myron reported on the upcoming Cultural Arts Center events; the Celtic Festival, the Fine Arts Fair, and the Congressional 8th District Art Competition sponsored by Congressman John Boehner's office.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

09-01 Resolution (Fees and Charges 2009): It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 09-01 regarding the Department's 2009 fees/charges structure, the resolution passed unanimously.

09-02 Resolution (Turfgrass Inc.): It was moved and seconded to approved Resolution 09-02 regarding the purchase of fertilizer/chemicals, the resolution was passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

The Parks and Recreation Board meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM. The next monthly meeting of the Board will be held at 5:30 PM on April 14, 2009 at the Community Arts Center.

Cyndi A Kreke
Secretary