

CITY OF VANDALIA
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

February 16, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tara Landis, Lenny Maenza, Rick Scherer, Larry Taylor, Lydia Baker

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Rodney Washburn, Corey Follick

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Clark, Rudy Wells, Jeff Kreill, Sherry McConnaughey, Alicia McCracken, Aaron Messenger, John Myers, Sarah Lavy, Al Tuttle

- Chairperson Tara Landis called the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to order at 6:35 p.m.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- The minutes of the November 17, 2021 meeting were presented to the board. Larry Taylor motioned to accept the minutes as presented, and Rick Scherer seconded the motion. Motion carried all ayes.

COMMENTS FROM INTEREST CITIZENS

- None.

FACILITIES SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Rudy Wells presented the Facilities Superintendent Report.

- Our newest Facility Maintainer, Matt Roberts, recently passed the testing requirements and has become a Certified Pool Operator through the National Swimming Pool Foundation. The acquired knowledge helps us better understand pool operations and reduce risks associated with pool operations.
- Staff is continuing the painting and other modifications in several office areas at the Municipal Building. We have coordinated this work as staff vacancies and retirements have temporarily permitted access to these areas. Wall painting, repairing carpet squares, and other updates have not been completed in these areas since the building was remodeled around 2000.
- We continue to work on trash box restoration and the building of some new boxes. These are the wood boxes you see in our parks. Some of the wood has failed and the boxes that are brought in are being painted once repairs are made.
- As part of our snow removal routine we are clearing snow from the outer pathway at the Sports Complex, Robinette Park, and the Art Park. We clear snow from these areas after our other areas of responsibility are cleared and during regular work hours. For this reason, and dependent on the snow fall amounts, this can be several days after snowfall has stopped. Please keep in mind these paths are not salted and may need a few days of sunshine after the snow is cleared before they are bare pavement.

- We are looking at the initial drawings of the Art Park restroom design and making recommendations in providing a user/maintainer friendly facility.

CITY TREE REPORT

Rudy Wells presented the Urban Forest Report.

- We cut down the prairie areas at the Art Park and sprayed for honeysuckle. We also began adding soil along the new asphalt pathways at the park. We will continue this work as weather permits. Adding this soil will provide a smooth transition between turf and the path.
- Tree work along National Road and Dixie Drive was completed. Borrowed an arrow board and a three-person crew pruned low limbs and limbs impeding on the flow of vehicle traffic. This work needs completed almost every year with touch up pruning occurring as needed. Approximately 65 of the 91 trees needed some pruning at this time, and it took about 3 hours to complete.
- Continued conversation with a young man working towards his Eagle Scout project. The plan will be for his group to plant approximately 8 trees for us this Spring at the Sports Complex.

BEE CITY REPORT

Al Tuttle presented the Bee City Report.

- Work with the pollinators will begin in March.
- Asked that we continue to keep Joe Dranschak in our prayers.

RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Jeff Kreill presented the Recreation Superintendent Report.

Jeff offered congratulations to Rudy Wells on his 2021 Marvin Link Distinguished Service Award.

Recreation Report:

- Job Fair - Although we did not have a large number of attendees (approximately 40), staff has hired 5-6 people that attended. Aaron hired 2. Rudy needs at least 4 or 5 guys, when in the past he would have 7. John is always looking for umpires.
- Dayton Foundation – The Youth Recreation Scholarship Fund has a balance of \$33,017.64. Marketing for the updated opportunities will be released soon. Opportunities include Youth Sports, Summer CampRec, and youth VRC memberships. If anyone knows of any families, please let us know.
- Four Free Little Libraries have been purchased. We will solicit Butler students from the Octagon Club to participate in painting and installing the libraries in four parks: Copperfield, Brown School, Helke, and Warner. Thanks to The Vandalia-Butler Foundation and to the Vandalia Optimist Club for their financial support of \$1,000 each. The money will pay for the libraries and accessories such as paint, support posts, signs, landscaping, etc.

- The 1st Annual Vandalia Pickleball Classic will be held on August 19-21 at Helke Park. We have partnered with a national firm, Around the Post Pickleball, to offer the event. The owner of the company, Scott Green, is originally from the Miami Valley and has many local ties. Jeff is working closely with Scott. We are hoping for at least 100 participants for the 1st Annual Vandalia Pickleball Classic, and a portion of the proceeds will go to the Youth Recreation Scholarship Fund. The hope is to grow to 200-300 players in the future.
- Alicia, Sarah, Aaron, and John attended the Ohio Parks & Recreation Association (OPRA) conference February 7-9. They came home with lots of ideas and new trends and confirmations that our Department provides some of the best programming in the State!
- The latest Homeschool Takeover was very successful. It was held on Friday, January 21, at the VRC from 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. 57 families (254 attendees) paid to participate. Families enjoyed the climbing wall, childcare, pool, and gym games (dodgeball, floor scooters, basketball). The event netted \$852. The next Homeschool Takeover is scheduled for Friday, March 18.
- 3 Valentine's classes were also successful.
- Upcoming Events – Kids Night Out on Friday, February 18, and February Fun Night on Friday, February 25.

Athletic Report

- Optimist Club Youth Basketball

Basketball Individual Participation #'s			
Avg past			
5 years	2019	2020	2021
149	144	108	173

- February 26 is the last day for leagues games. Tournament play will conclude on March 5 or March 12, depending on the league.
- The K-1 Instructional Basketball program finished February 5. Many thanks to Coach Betten and players from the boy's teams in 7th, 8th, 9th, JV, and Varsity! John received countless positive comments about the program. 52 youngsters participated!
- Scheduling officials will continue to be a challenge until February 19th. The scheduling will become easier once middle school basketball is complete and many high school teams are being eliminated from the State Tournament.
- Larry Taylor asked if the Optimist Club is still sponsoring Youth Basketball. Discussion followed about the relationship with the Optimist Club.
- Special thank you to the Smith, Demmitt, and Helke schools for moving custodians to different buildings at night to allow our teams to practice. John is thankful for the quality communication from each school and they have done a great job communicating when practices need cancelled.

- 2022 Baseball/Softball
 - 180 total registrations to date. 442 kids participated in 2021. As weather improves we anticipate increased registrations. Registration soft ending is March 1.
 - Jeff discussed the Marketing videos that John Myers and Rich Hopkins worked on to promote the upcoming season that were released last week.

Video Views	
Facebook	1,252
Twitter	195
TikTok	2,370
Instagram	6,119

- John continues to seek team sponsors. 142 sponsorship forms were mailed to local businesses. To date, 4 have responded. Skateworld is a returning sponsor, and VFW, Irish Club of Dayton, and Lewis and Michael Moving & Storage are new.
 - Committed Sponsors
 - Skateworld of Vandalia
 - VFW 9582
 - Irish Club of Dayton
 - Lewis and Michael Moving & Storage
 - Frickers
 - MSD
 - Sister Cities of Vandalia
 - The Expediting Company
 - Dayton Masons
 - B&J's Shaved Ice
 - John anticipates having 25 teams and would like a sponsor for each team. If you know of any companies interested, let John know.
- With Micki Marlow retiring, an RFP was sent out to see if any company would like to take over running the concession stand, similar to Cassel Hills Pool. Kona-Ice has expressed an interest in running our baseball/soccer concessions at the Sports Complex. They are qualified, have staffing under control, and are experienced in running a food truck, Timeless Tacos.
- Registrations for 2022 Adult Softball have begun.

Recreation Center

- Hats off to full-time and part-time Staff for keeping the VRC open during the snow storms! We closed early on Thursday, February 3 at 7:00 p.m. due to weather conditions. Staff was thankful, and we didn't hear any push back from patrons. We ended up having 131 visits!
- We had 34 birthday parties in January. 6 Resident/Member, and 28 Non-Resident.

- December Daily Admissions Reporting

	Dec 2021 Daily Visits	Dec 2020 Revenue	Dec 2021 Revenue	Dec 5-Year Avg Revenue
Resident	436	\$ 1,575	\$ 2,488	
Non-Resident	1,069	\$ 752	\$ 7,651	
Totals	1,505	\$ 2,327	\$ 10,139	\$ 8,276

- Premier Health

- Stop the Bleed – Monday, February 21 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
 - Premier offers glucose and blood pressure screenings the first Wednesday of each month from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. They are updating the flyer to include that testing can be done when a trainer is here on Mondays and Fridays also. This is such a great service to offer our patrons.
- Touchless toilet flushers and water bottle fillers have been installed. Building Maintenance is working on the cosmetics around those areas if needed. Shout out to Jerrod Hill and Matt Roberts for using some leftover RFP board from the SE room project, to use in the gym hallway fountain area as there was a lot to cover. They made that area look great!
- Any senior that visits the Rec Center 10 times or more each month is eligible to win a gift. January Insurance Member Incentive Winners:
 - John Gels, 15 visits, \$50 Gift Card
 - Deloris Harter, 11 visits, \$50 Gift Card
- Our Senior Group Fitness classes continue to be well attended. The numbers below represent the total number of participants:

Jan 2021	Jan 2022	Jan 5-Year Avg
904	1,070	969

- We are required to update our Insurance Based Membership (IBM) annually. In 2021 we had 418 IBM at the end of January. In 2022 we have 510. We project reaching 1,000 IBM by the end of the year. Many thanks to our front desk staff for all the processing they complete.

January Insurance Based Membership Reporting:

Insurance Company	Jan 2022 Active IBM's	Jan 2022 Visits	Jan 2021 Visits
Tivity	430	3,127	2,225
Optum	69	422	279
ASH	11	93	38
Total	510	3,642	2,542

Member Resident Status	
Resident	196
Nonresident	179
Butler Township	135
Total	510

- January 2022 marks the first time since Covid that our EFT revenues increased when comparing month end from one-year vs. the previous year.

EFT Summary

Jan 2022 Total	Jan 2021 Total	5-year Average
\$19,117	\$19,038	\$23,078

- Staff is working diligently to update our logo throughout the Center and on documents.
- The FREE February class spotlight is Cycle Plus offered on Wednesdays and Fridays at 5:30pm.

Senior Center

- Jeff shared a recent VanTran situation about a VanTran driver noticing a Resident with health issues was living in deplorable conditions. The Police were contacted and then Protective Services. Protective Services is now involved and in contact with the Resident's child that lives out of state. This shows how vital the VanTran drivers are to the community.
- As always, the Senior Center Newsletters can be found on the website.

Cassel Hills Pool

- Christy's will not be returning in 2022 to run the concession stand. We are hoping to secure a new vendor asap. Kona-Ice is a possibility.
- The Piranhas plan to return in 2022. Once we receive swim meet and practice dates, we'll update the annual Agreement.
- We are still receiving quotes for work to be done with the diving board stands. One failed in 2021, and Rudy noticed recently that the other stand has also failed.
- Larry Taylor inquired how 2021 finished overall compared to previous years. Alicia responded that it is still down due to Covid, with a 70% recovery rate, but the Rec Center is seeing increases, and Staff is getting creative to get new Memberships. Jeff explained that Dan Wendt, City Manager, had given a goal to increase Memberships 2% by December 31, which was met. Steve shared that Golf has recovered 100%, and Covid forced us to look at food operations. This resulted in eliminating the kitchen staff, and the new operation model is working very well. Larry commented that the Rec Center was never meant to be a profit center, it was for the residents.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Parks Master Plan Process
 - PROS Consulting has been selected to complete the Master Plan. They are very skilled and have completed many similar plans around the country.
 - Wednesday, February 9 kicked-off the process with a full day of meetings with the Project Team, and a 3:30 p.m. meeting with the Steering

Committee. Lenny Maenza and Tara Landis will be the Park Board Representatives for the Steering Committee.

- A Virtual Community Meeting will take place on Thursday, February 17 at 6:00 p.m. This will be a presentation by PROS Consulting about the process. Registration is required. To date, around 70 people have signed up to attend.
- Staff workshops will begin in March, followed by Internal Stakeholder meetings, Department Head meetings, and then External Stakeholder meetings.
- A series of surveys will be mailed to Residents. Hoping to have at least 350 returned.
- A Survey Monkey survey will be offered online that anyone can complete.
- Open Resident discussions are planned for the Summer in our Parks.
- The plan is for PROS Consulting to come back by November with their findings and a 10-Year plan.
- Dan Wendt, City Manager, has already set aside just under \$1M for new playgrounds, but will be waiting for the Master Plan results to select those. A committee will be selected late Summer to help with the playgrounds.
- Facilities HVAC/Roof Projects
 - The approval has been given for the HVAC/Roof Project. Most city facilities will have work done, for a total cost of \$8-\$9M. Overall the City revenues are looking good. Payments will be \$750,000/year for 15 years.
- 2022 Meeting Schedule and Location
 - May 18 will be at the Parks Garage and will include a facility tour.
 - August 17 will be at Helke Park.
 - November 16 will be at the Recreation Center and will include a facility tour.

OLD BUSINESS

- None.

NEW BUSINESS

- The Star-Spangled Celebration is set for Sunday, July 3 at the Sports Complex. An RFQ was sent out for the Fireworks, and it was decided to continue with Rozzi. Jeff is looking into some new vendors.
- Jeff shared that former Park Board Member, Meredith Leslie, wished to tell everyone she said hello from Columbus.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Larry Taylor made a motion to adjourn and Lenny Maenza seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried all eyes. Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Tara Landis, Chairperson

Rick Scherer, Secretary