

FAIRFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MINUTES

August 17, 2021

The monthly meeting of the Fairfield Parks and Recreation Board occurred on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at William Harbin Park. The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm. Parks Board Members in attendance were: Doug Meece, Gwen Ritchie, Leslie Besl, Scott Clark, and Dan Prior. A motion was made and seconded to excuse the 4th Ward Representative, Paul Assum. The motion was opposed and Board Member Paul Assum was not excused. Staff members in attendance were Tiphonie Mays, Parks Director and Molly McGraw, Board Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINTES:

Approval of the minutes from July 20, 2021 will be suspended until the September 21, 2021 Board Meeting.

REPORT OF OTHER BOARDS & COMMISSIONS / AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Planning Commission:

Last two meetings cancelled – No report.

Environmental Commission:

Director Mays reported for the Environmental Commission. Ms. Mays informed the Board members that the Parks Department is looking to expand the Living Legacy Tree program throughout all of the parks. The Committee will be meeting at Creekside in November to work on tree pruning.

Cultural Arts Advisory Commission:

Dan Prior reported that the Community Artist Showcase is coming up September 25, 2021 through November 13, 2021. The schedule for the Art Exhibits in 2022 is almost full. Theatre rentals have been filling up, and normal operations have returned. The Community Arts Center is looking for more volunteers to usher during theatre performances. Board members suggested promoting volunteer opportunities to students at Fairfield City Schools.

School Board Report:

Scott Clark informed the Board that the first day of school was a success. The school's Opening Day ceremony included the school's marching band, drama club, and four speakers. Jennifer Moore was named FCSD Teacher of the Year; Billy Carberry was given Support Staff Member of the Year.

Golf Course Ad Hoc Committee:

Doug Meece stated that the Golf Course Ad Hoc Committee did not have a meeting. Mr. Meece suggested possibly outsourcing the Golf Course Operations in the future to assist with maintenance

struggles. Board members followed with a discussion. Parks Director, Tiphonie Mays informed the Board that maintenance for the golf course is low on staff and limited on chemicals, which are results in the maintenance struggles.

City Council Report:

Council Member, Leslie Besl informed the Board that at the last council meeting, Ben Mann (Public Works Director) gave an update and provided a schedule on route construction projects for the next several years.

Council approved the first ever Friends of the Parks Fund.

Council entered into a contract with Barry Brown Paving to begin the development of Pickle Ball courts at Harbin Park.

Leslie informed the Board that Council accepted terms from the Ohio settlement, which Fairfield was one of many participants in the Opioid Litigation, reimbursing the city with up to \$582,000 in expenses. Council approved the parks re-developing fund due to loose top soil surrounding the new Harbin Park Loop Trail.

Leslie informed the Board that Council would be meeting to discuss the 11 candidates running for the City Managers position.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Director Tiphonie Mays distributed and reviewed the monthly financials, including 2019 revenue, informing the Board that revenue was up in Golf and Aquatics, and that revenue is down in Recreational Activities. Summer camp had restricted numbers due to COVID-19, limiting capacity.

Ms. Mays discussed Phase 1 of the Harbin Park renovation project and informed the Board that engineering plans are going out to bid for the new Pavilion Overlook. Phase II of the Harbin Park renovation is to begin in 2022. The Director presented to the Board a possible concept (map provided) for the Phase II play area, located in the central park. A discussion followed in regards to the concept of the new play area.

The Parks Board meeting in September will remain as scheduled.

Director Mays informed the board that Butler County received nearly 76 million from the American Rescue Plan Funds. All county Commissioners are putting together their own project lists throughout the County to those who applied to the ARP funding. Cindi Carpenter's Number 10 on the Commissioners list was the extension of the Great Miami Trail through Marsh Lake, Furfield's Dog Park, and down to Black Bottom Park. Mays presented a Metro Parks agreement form with Middletown, regarding a maintenance agreement with on the Great Miami trail. Mays suggested possibly looking into the agreement if the great Miami trail extends.

Director Mays presented the new Golf Cart Lease, which has changed from a 5-year lease to a 3-year lease. Request for Proposal's will be accepted through September 1st. Board Members will choose which proposal they prefer to go with at the September 21 meeting.

Director Mays reported that Elisha Morgan Mansion's patio extension project has begun, and the Pickle Ball courts are underway.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Meeting Schedule:

The next Parks Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 21, 2021; 6:00pm. The location of the meeting will be Huffman Park, 2100 John Gray Road.

Adjournment:

The Parks Board meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.

Molly J. McGraw,
Assistant Board Secretary