

FAIRFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MINUTES

October 19, 2021

The monthly meeting of the Fairfield Parks and Recreation Board occurred on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at the Gilbert Farms Elisha Morgan Mansion. The meeting was called to order at 5:59pm. Parks Board Member in attendance were: Doug Meece, Gwen Ritchie, Leslie Besl, Scott Clark, and Dan Prior. A motion was made and seconded to excuse 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 Cindi Kreke and Molly McGraw, Board Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the September, 2021 meeting. The motion was passed unanimously and the minutes were approved. A second motion was made to approve the minutes from the September 2021 Special meeting. The motion was passed and the special meeting minutes were approved.

Director Mays gave Board members a tour of the new updates to the Elisha Morgan Mansion, including the new patio expansion, landscape, and newly painted gazebo.

REPORT OF OTHER BOARDS & COMMISSIONS / AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Planning Commission:

Gwen informed Board members that two new home-building proposals for the Emerald Lake Neighborhood was denied due to not fitting the structural plans of the neighborhood.

Gwen also reported that City Barbeque will be opening a new location on Route 4 and Symmes Rd., replacing the vacant Gold Star building. This location will include an outdoor patio and indoor seating.

Gwen informed Board members that the Benzing property on Gilmore and Mack Rd., surrounding Mercy Hospital has been purchased and a planned unit development of single-family and multi-family duplexes have been approved.

Environmental Commission:

Director Mays reported that the Environmental Commission Committee met with Wendi Van Buren (ODNR), to discuss twigs to tree program and how to implement the program into the Fairfield Parks.

Mays reported that the Izaac Walton Planting program was held at Huffman Park, planting 80 trees with 40 participants from Fairfield South Schools. Director Mays also reported that the Living Legacy Tree planting will be held this month.

Cultural Arts Advisory Commission:

Dan Prior informed that the Cultural Arts Advisory Commission did not meet this month.

School Board Report:

Scott Clark informed Board members that the next School Board meeting will be held on Thursday, October 21 at Creekside.

Scott reported that Homecoming weekend was very successful with the parade, winning the football field, and having the dance on the football field. Homecoming king and queen from 2020 were both brought in to be recognized.

Scott also reported that the Elementary Schools participated in a STEM carnival, which included multiple activities & stations throughout the classroom.

Mr. Clark also reported that the all candidates running for School Board are running unopposed.

Golf Course Ad Hoc Committee:

Doug Meece reported that the Golf Course Ad Hoc Committee did not have a meeting this month.

City Council Report:

Leslie Besl reported that City Council approved all of the recommendations submitted by the Parks Board in regards to the Harbin Park Pavilion Contract, Play Area, Overlook, Restroom Contract, Fairfield Greens Golf Cart Lease, as well as the MetroParks of Butler County Nature Programming Partnership Agreement.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Director Mays distributed and reviewed the monthly financials of year to date revenue and expenses with the Board members.

Mays also distributed the End of Year Aquatic Center report. A request was made to view the cost and revenue from 2019, comparing the difference since collaborating with Swim Safe Pool Management Group. Mays informed the Board that a sampling of customer zip codes had been collected on 26 days of pool operations to compare resident to non-resident transactions. The conclusion was that transactions were split nearly 50% between residence and non-residence.

Mays informed Board members that the loop trail at Oakwood Park has begun. Re-stripping and coating of all the tennis and basketball courts will begin soon.

Mays announced to the Board members that there will be a meeting on October 20, 2021 to discuss the pre-construction plans for the Harbin Park pavilion.

Mays informed the Board members that the City of Fairfield's Annual Parade of Lights will take place on Saturday, November 27, 2021.

Old Business:

Director Mays informed the Board that the vacant 4th Ward Representative position will remain vacant until new candidates are selected in March, 2022.

New Business:

Resolution 2021-16: MetroParks of Butler County Nature Programming Partnership Agreement. Doug Meece read the resolution to Board members and called for a vote. The resolution passed unanimously.

Meeting Schedule:

The next scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board will be held at 6:00PM on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at the Fairfield Community Arts Center 411 Wessel Drive, Fairfield OH, 45014.

Executive Section:

None

Adjournment:

The Parks Board meeting adjourned at 7:14 PM.

Molly J. McGraw
Board Secretary