

FAIRFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2010

The monthly meeting of the Fairfield Parks and Recreation Board was conducted on Tuesday, March 9, 2010 at the Fairfield Community Arts Center. Chair Carol Oler called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM. Board members in attendance were: Carol Oler, Bob Myron, Don Hassler, Tim Meyers and Dick Wood. Doug Meece and Bob Breen were excused. Staff members present were: Jim Bell, Parks and Recreation Director; Bob Schappacher, Parks Facilities Manager; Heidi Schiller, Community Arts Center Manager; Cindi Lewellyn, Recreation Manager; Ben Strickler, Parks Events Manager; and Cyndi Kreke, Secretary. Audience member in attendance was: Karen Fields, Environmental Commission Chair.

Bob Breen entered the meeting at 5:37 PM.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Karen Fields, Environmental Commission Chair, was present to give the annual report of the Environmental Commission's accomplishments from 2009 and the goals and objectives for 2010. Karen provided the Board members with two hand-outs (attached) containing the information from her oral presentation.

Doug Meece entered the meeting at 5:40 PM.

Karen reported that the Commission will be adopting a "water theme" for 2010. Many of their 2010 goals and objectives will be based on this theme, such as; the river sweep clean up, birdbath constructing, rain barrels and other projects.

The Board thanked Karen for her report and commented on the success and growth of the Environmental Commission. Tim Meyers stated how impressed he was with the new logo that the Commission designed and would like to see information in the next newsletter about the Environmental Commission and their work. The Board informed Karen that after tonight's Parks Board meeting, the board will be interviewing candidates for the openings that exist within the Commission.

MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

A motion was made by Bob Myron and seconded by Doug Meece to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2010 meeting. The February minutes were approved as distributed.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Operations Reports (January 2010): Jim Bell reviewed the January 2010 operations reports for revenues, expenses, and participation/programming numbers from the Golf Courses, Community Arts Center and the Recreation programs (attached).

Miscellaneous: Jim Bell reported to the Board that Fairfield School's Teen Coalition for a Safe and Drug Free Fairfield presented a report to City Council at their meeting of March 8th. In that report, the freshmen that were surveyed reported that the Village Green Park, the High School Stadium bleachers and the School Bus parking lot were the major gathering areas for illicit activities by their peers. Jim Bell informed the Board that this issue was discussed with Police Chief Mike Dickey at the Senior Staff meeting on March 9th and Chief Dickey stated that the police were planning to increase their monitoring of the Village Green Park with the security cameras, the Police Rangers, the uniformed Police patrol and undercover officers.

REPORTS OF AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Council Update: Tim Meyers stated the City Council approved the Fertilizer and Chemical purchases for the golf/parks maintenance divisions at its last meeting.

Planning Commission Update: Don Hassler reported that the Planning Commission had approved the sale of the Frederic's Corporation property on Muhlhauser road to a church and that the Emerald Lake PUD was being reviewed by the Commission. Doug Meece asked if staff was aware of the Huffman property being available (next to South Trace Golf Course). Jim Bell stated that he had spoken to John Clemmons and Don Hassler following the death of Mr. Huffman and Mr. Clemmons was unaware of the property being through probate and/or available. The staff would be monitoring the situation.

Don Hassler questioned what was being done regarding the goose situation at the golf courses; Mr. Meece stated that this matter had been discussed at a previous meeting and Greg Morrow had presented a series of options. The Board opted to hire a "dog service" to harass the geese and Mr. Morrow was soliciting proposals. Bob Schappacher and Jim Bell stated that the proposals had been received and the vendor application process was on-going; the service should begin in mid-March.

Environmental Commission Update: None

Cultural Arts Advisory Commission Update: Bob Myron reported that the last meeting was cancelled due to weather.

OLD BUSINESS: Tim Meyers inquired when the work on Black Bottom would begin if approved in the CIP. Jim Bell stated that the plans were going through the review process by all the associated agencies, since the property was located outside the city of Fairfield and wellhead protection agreements were executed when the property was purchased (Butler County Engineers, Ross Township Planning, Fairfield Township Planning, Hamilton-New Baltimore Ground Water Consortium, Hamilton Water, Cincinnati Water, ODNR and the Miami Conservancy District). Bayer Becker Engineers

is acting as the city's representative in these reviews. Once approvals are received and/or any changes/comments noted; bidding could occur within 3-4 weeks.

NEW BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

Staff was dismissed and the Board began its interviewing of candidates for the vacancies within the Environmental Commission and the Cultural Arts Advisory Commission. Candidates interviewed were: Michael Lane (EC), John Backscheider (EC), Boyd Miller (EC) Greg LoBuono (EC), Laine Snyder (CAAC) and David Sheldrick (CAAC). Tim Meyers left the meeting at 6:10 PM. The Board was very impressed with all the candidates' qualifications and enthusiasm and recommended that all be appointed to the Commissions as follows:

Environmental Commission

Michael Lane – 3 year term
John Backscheider – 3 year term
Boyd Miller – 3 year term
Greg LoBuono – fill the unexpired term

Cultural Arts Advisory Commission

Laine Snyder – 3 year term
David Sheldrick – 3 year term

Carol Oler would contact Jim Bell and request that he relay the Board's recommendations to City Council regarding these appointments.

The Parks and Recreation Board meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM. The next monthly meeting of the Board is scheduled to be held at 5:30 PM on April 13, 2010 at the Community Arts Center.

Cyndi A Kreke
Secretary