

FAIRFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2013

The monthly meeting of the Fairfield Parks and Recreation Board was conducted on Tuesday, March 12, 2013, at the Fairfield Community Arts Center. Chair Doug Meece called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Board Members in attendance were: Bob Breen, Dr. Stanley Goodman, Marty Judd, Doug Meece, Bob Myron, Terry Senger and Billy Smith. Staff members in attendance were: James Bell, Parks and Recreation Director; Bob Schappacher, Facilities/Operations Manager; Heidi Schiller, Arts/Programs Manager; and Ben Strickler, Community Events Coordinator.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None

MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING: The February meeting minutes were approved as presented.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Operations Revenue/Expense Report: Jim Bell reviewed the January operations and expense reports (attached). Mr. Bell commented on the 2012 Recreation Facilities Fund's revenues bump, due to the warm winter months in 2012, being \$1,720,906; versus 2011 when the winter weather was typical, being \$1,569,101. Mr. Bell commented on the golf rounds played in January/February 2013 being more typical to SW Ohio, 625 rounds, versus the 2012 play of 1,446 rounds.

2013 – 2017 Capital Improvement Program: Jim Bell distributed and reviewed the 2013-2017 Parks and Recreation proposed Capital Improvement Program (attached). Mr. Bell stated that the City Council CIP review would be on March 25th as part of the City Council/City Manager Briefing. Mr. Bell stated that the "large-ticket" items in the CIP were grant dependent and that most of the projects were geared toward maintaining and/or facilities upgrades; rather than new construction.

Environmental Commission/Cultural Arts Advisory Commission Interviews/Appointments: Jim Bell reviewed the applicants and vacant seats on the EC and the CAAC. The CAAC currently has three vacant seats and the EC has 4 vacant seats. The Board discussed the applicants that were re-applying for their seats and felt that there was not a need to re-interview said applicants. The Board would vote in New Business to recommend to City Council that the two applicants be re-appointed to their respective commissions. The Board decided that it was necessary to interview the new applicants and that interviews would be scheduled following the April Board meeting. The Board also discussed whether the EC and the CAAC had too many seats, since it seemed to be a constant challenge to have all the seats filled. The Board requested that the staff and Board liaisons to the CAAC and the EC discuss this matter with the commission for their thoughts on the commission size.

REPORTS OF AD HOC COMMITTEES:

City Council Update: Mr. Terry Senger reported that at the March 11th City Council meeting, that Council had approved the Fleet Division's vehicle CIP purchases, which included several Parks replacement vehicles. City Council had the second reading on the grant application submittal for the Black Bottom Park project. Mr. Senger reported that the Kroger Fueling Station construction was to begin in approximately one month.

Planning Commission Update: Mr. Bob Myron reported that at the last Planning Commission meeting that the Commission denied a conditional use for salvage yard/used car sales on Port Union Road, a conditional use for a bar Route 4/Camelot Drive, and a senior housing facility on Patterson Boulevard. The Commission approved an adult day care center on Patterson Boulevard. Mr. Bob Myron reported that the next meeting of the Planning Commission is scheduled for March 13th and on the agenda is a review of proposed changes to City Ordinances related to building/zoning regulations.

Environmental Commission Update: Mr. Bob Breen reported that the EC was preparing for the Home Expo and seeking nominations for its Friends of the Fairfield Forest awards. Mr. Breen stated that the Commission was very appreciative of the work that Mr. Ben Strickler had done for the EC as its staff liaison and was looking forward to working with Mr. Bob Schappacher as staff liaison.

Cultural Arts Advisory Commission Update: Doctor Goodman reported that the CAAC had reviewed the summer entertainment/events schedule at its last meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Resolution 2013 – 06 (Parks and Recreation Board Policies and Procedures): Resolution 2013-06 was tabled until the April meeting.

Parade Entries Parameters: Jim Bell and Ben Strickler updated the Board on the findings of the staff as it regarded parade entry parameters/requirements. At its June 2012 meeting the Board had requested that staff investigate other communities' parade entry requirements following a Councilman's concern with a political entrant (candidate running for office) in the 2012 Memorial Day parade. Mr. Bell reviewed the history of the Memorial Day parade, which began in 2001, as part of the Veterans Memorial Park committee. In 2000, a group of veterans approached the City requesting that the parcel of property on the north-west corner of Pleasant/Wessel be considered for a Veterans Memorial Park. The Parks and Recreation Board suggested that the former "Library Park" on Wessel Drive was a better alternative. A committee was formed consisting of representatives of the local VFW post, Am Vets post, VFW Ladies Auxiliary and City support staff to begin the transformation of Library Park into Veterans Memorial park. The committee began the Memorial Day parade/Remembrance Ceremony in 2001; and did not have any restrictions on participants (copies of the Committee's 2001-2005 parade applications were reviewed by the Board at their June 2012 meeting). The Veterans committee disbanded prior to the 2006 parade and the Parks and Recreation Department assumed the duties of planning the parade/remembrance ceremony, under the same guidelines.

The current issue before the Board is whether to limit the political participants in the parade to seated politicians or have the parade open to political candidates too. Mr. Strickler discussed the findings of the investigation into "what other communities allow" in their parades; the majority of the parades had no limitations on entries (findings attached). It was the Board's opinion that the Memorial Day parade

should commemorate the veterans' service/sacrifice to the country, rather than be used as a political campaigning platform. The Board decided that the parade entry form should reflect that only seated elected officials will be allowed in the parade and that political campaigning be discouraged. Staff was directed to have the parade entry application reflect these changes. Several Board Members expressed their disappointment in community groups distributing flyers promoting their group activities, events, country club/swim club, etc., which had no connection to the Memorial Day event; but felt that prohibiting such a practice would be unmanageable.

NEW BUSINESS:

EC/CAAC Appointments: It was moved and seconded that Mr. David Sheldrick be recommended to City Council for appointment to the Cultural Arts Advisory Commission. The motion was approved unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that Ms. Rebecca Montag be recommended to City Council for appointment to the Environmental Commission. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Meece directed staff to forward the Board's recommendations to City Council. Mr. Bell stated that the recommendation would be forward to City Council the following day.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

The Board adjourned the meeting at 6:45 PM. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2013, at 5:30 PM, at the Fairfield Community Arts Center.

Cyndi A. Kreke,
Secretary