

**CITY OF GAHANNA
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – September 3, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Eric Miller called the meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board to order on Wednesday, September 3, 2008 at 7pm at City Hall.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Diane Cantrell
Cynthia Franzmann
Luke Messinger
Eric Miller
Laurel Naegele
Vincent Tremante

Absent: Windy McKenna

In attendance from the City were Tony Collins, Director, and Troy Euton, Deputy Director, Department of Parks & Recreation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Tremante made a **MOTION** to approve the August 25, 2008 meeting minutes; seconded by Cantrell. **On roll call vote:** Messinger, Yes, Miller, Yes, Naegele, Yes, Tremante, Yes, Cantrell, Yes, and Franzmann, Yes. **The motion carried 6-0.**

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions to the agenda

HEARING OF VISITORS

Marcia Sutak, 947 Barleycorn Place, Gahanna, Ohio; expressed concern with Ambassador Commons Park. There are a lot of neighborhood families that spend time at the park. She shared pictures of the playground and the pond. The wood on the climbing equipment is chipped and peeling and the railroad ties surrounding the area have big spikes coming out. There is debris and a rusty bike on the bank of the pond. Ms. Sutak would appreciate any work that can be done to improve and clean up the park.

Collins stated he will have staff clean up the area and will check the replacement schedule of the playground equipment and get back to Ms. Sutak.

Dave Hague, 215 Rivers Edge Way, Gahanna Ohio; spoke about the Tuesday night open gym volleyball night at one of the middle schools. Mr. Hague would like to see the season run from October to mid May instead of ending in March. Mr. Hague has spoken with staff that has some concerns with staffing open gym volleyball for a longer season. Mr. Hague stated that the staff member who was working open volleyball would open up for them and collect their money and lock back up at night; and that on at least four occasions no staff showed up to let them in. Mr.

Hague and John Sherman, another participant, are willing to volunteer on open gym volleyball nights, opening/closing and collecting the playing fee.

Collins will discuss with staff the option of extending the season for open gym volleyball and look at the agreement with the school. Collins will get back to Mr. Hague.

OLD BUSINESS:

Big Walnut Trail Concept Plan

Naegele shared the Big Walnut Trail Concept Plan prepared by Floyd Browne Group. Three alternative trails routes were included in the concept plan.

The Bicycle Advisory Committee made a motion that passed unanimously to recommend the adoption of the Big Walnut Multi-Purpose Trail Plan received from Floyd Browne Group to the Gahanna Parks & Recreation Board and Gahanna City Council.

The Board discussed and reviewed the Big Walnut Trail Concept Plan.

Cantrell made a **MOTION** to adopt the Big Walnut Trail Concept Plan and recommend the Plan to City Council for approval; seconded by Tremante. **On roll call vote:** Naegele, Yes, Tremante, Yes, Cantrell, Yes, Franzmann, Yes, Messinger, Yes, and Miller, Yes. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Youth Sports Reports

Collins explained that there are some issues with the Youth Football League. The football season begins on September 6, 2008 and as of this date the Field Use Agreement has not been signed and the league has not been compliant on several required documents listed in the agreement. The league has had three presidents in the last two years and is having trouble producing the documents. Staff has been as flexible as possible but need, some direction from the Board on the next steps. The department has received several citizen complaints against the league.

After some discussion, the board decided it would like the league to have the insurance coverage or they cannot play; also give them a final notice of 45 days to turn in their documents and if they do not turn them in by the deadline the City will not allow the league to use the fields. Collins will share the wishes of the Board with the Mayor.

Community Center

Collins shared that the City is going to conduct a survey with baseline questions; it will then follow up with focus groups. Collins will have staff give their top ten priority items for a community center based on the Master Plan. Collins will share the list with the board at a future meeting for discussion. The priority list will be used for focus group discussions.

Collins said possible locations mentioned for a community center are the old Kroger center on Hamilton Road and the Friendship Park Service Complex. Depending on what the community wants to see in a center will be a factor for where a center will be located.

NEW BUSINESS:

Parkland Dedication Ordinance

Collins shared that the new Parkland Dedication Ordinance has some items in it that need corrected:

- Section: Purpose (a) the word subdivided needs removed from the ordinance.
- There is a policy issue regarding the formula for evaluating the land for dedication
 - The formula works on the bigger projects; however as you increase the density the formula does not work.

CORRESPONDENCE

“Make a Wish” Foundation sent a thank you letter to the Department for hosting the “Make a Wish Walk”.

COMMITTEES’ REPORTS

BAC

Naegele distributed copies of the Safe Routes to School Travel Plan and timeline to the Board. The City received grants for four schools; the timeline is very aggressive in order to meet the deadline of the grant. An intern will be hired for survey compilation.

The group will begin reevaluating the overall bikeway routes which include the entire bike trail including bike paths, bike routes, and bike lanes. Once the evaluation is complete BAC will give a plan to MORPC requesting the needs for a bike trail.

CIC

Cantrell stated the next meeting is September 16, 2008, where they will work on strategic planning.

DPAC

Naegele shared the subcommittee is working on obtaining quotes and plans for a water feature. Oxbow is working on the bank improvement at the park. Casey Cannon will remain as chair of the committee. The Eagle Scout project has completed the bench pads.

NRAC

Tremante shared that the committee started their inventory of the Price Road Preserve. They should finish up at the September outing.

Veterans Memorial Committee

The next dedication will be on November 11, 2008 at 11am.

MEMBERS COMMENTS

Tremante wanted to thank the staff for putting in the new rain garden at Friendship Park. Tremante expressed concern about the erosion of the bank at Creekside Park.

Naegele shared how much her family enjoys Friday Night Music in the Park at Friendship Park.

Messinger asked if Disk Golf was in future plans. Collins stated it is on the list; however there currently is no appropriate site to accommodate play.

Miller said he is impressed with the numbers at the golf course and the pool.

Cantrell shared that the “No Child Left Inside” legislation is up for House vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Parks & Recreation Board at this time, Messinger made a **MOTION** to adjourn.

The Parks & Recreation Board meeting adjourned at 9:42pm

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Crossmock, Administrative Assistant

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2008

Eric Miller, Chair