



City of Gahanna

Meeting Minutes

Parks & Recreation Board

200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

Jan Ross, Chair
Eric Miller, Vice Chair
Ken Shepherd, Secretary
Holly Haines
Chrissy Kaminski
Harvey McCleskey
Donna Simmons

Nichole Butler, Clerk

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

7:00 PM

Gahanna City Hall, Council Chambers

Holly Haines was sworn in by Mayor Jadwin on Aug 20, 2025 at 3:00 PM.

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Ross called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The agenda was published on August 15, 2025.

B. ROLL CALL

Staff in Attendance: Stephania Ferrell, Director; Nichole Butler, Clerk

Present: 7 - Chrissy Kaminski, Eric Miller, Donna Simmons, Jan Ross, Ken Shepherd, Harvey McCleskey and Holly Haines

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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A motion was made by Shepherd second by Miller, that the July 16, 2025 Minutes be approved as published. The motion carried the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Kaminski, Miller, Simmons, Ross, Shepherd, McCleskey and Haines

D. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

E. HEARING OF VISITORS

F. CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

H. NEW BUSINESS**2026 Budget**

Director Ferrell presented a copy of the draft 2026 operational budget requests for the Parks & Recreation Department. Ferrell stated that the board will be able to review the request and bring questions to the September meeting, prior to the budget requests going to Mayor Jadwin and city council for approval. Ferrell explained that the document will show prior years 2024 and 2025 appropriations, and expenses as well for comparison for each line item. Ferrell noted the 2025 expenditures are as of the end of July 2025. Ferrell noted that revenue projections are also noted on the document. Ferrell noted that the document is broken out by divisions as they are separate accounts in the budget. Ross asked when the fiscal year runs. Ferrell stated it is January 1 to December 31. Shepherd asked why the request for general recreation materials and supplies was much higher than in the past. Ferrell stated that the Price Road Exploration Center will be opening in 2026 and will require the department to use more materials and supplies to get the facility stocked with the needed materials. Miller asked why there are two revenue totals under golf. Ferrell stated that one is for taxable items such as apparel and concessions, one is for non-taxable items such as memberships and greens fees. Miller asked if the fee increases are reviewed with the budget. Ferrell stated that fees are reviewed at the end of each season and compared to other municipalities. Ferrell stated the department also reviews prices to comply with the pricing policy which is reviewed by the Parks & Recreation Board. Kaminski asked if the increase in professional services requested for the senior center is due to the 825 Tech Center drive senior center opening. Ferrell stated that yes, there is an anticipated increase in need for signage and brochures.

Ross asked if salaries and benefits are included with the request. Ferrell stated that the Finance Department formulates the projections for salaries and benefits. Ross asked if any additional positions are being requested. Ferrell stated that they are reviewing the structure of the Senior Center operations due to the new facility.

Shepherd asked why the request for street trees was so high when there have not been expenditures that high as of now. Ferrell stated that the 2025 fall plantings have yet to occur as well as a completed tree inventory that is currently taking place which will increase the overall expenditures.

Shepherd asked where paving of parking lots goes in the budget. Ferrell stated that it depends, as this draft budget is only for

operational costs, and does not include capital projects.

I. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ferrell presented the directors report. Ferrell noted that the department received approval from council to go into contract on construction of the Price Road Exploration Center. Ferrell noted that construction is scheduled to begin in September. Ferrell stated that a new Recreation Superintendent, Sarah Ruff has been hired and began at the beginning of August. Ferrell stated that the new Recreation Coordinator is Nichole Butler, who currently serves as the Administrative Coordinator for the department and clerk for the Parks Board. Ferrell stated that the Administrative Coordinator position is posted and will close on September 2, 2025, and is anticipated to take over the role of Clerk for the October 2025 meeting. Ferrell noted that in the Directors' Report under aquatics, the number of memberships sold in 2025 was 914, which is nearly 200 more than prior years. Ferrell stated that the staff have done a great job promoting the memberships and running the pools.

Miller stated that he was at the Monday night council meeting where the supplemental appropriation for Price Road was approved. Miller asked if the request was due to needing additional funding. Ferrell stated that the supplemental was requested in order to secure the total funding necessary to complete the project, including project contingencies. Miller asked if they are going to begin construction in September, when they anticipate completion to be. Ferrell stated that they anticipate it to be completed at the end of summer 2026. Ross asked if they had to go back and request an extension on the previously awarded grant from the State of Ohio Capital Grant funding. Ferrell stated that yes, the department was granted an extension.

Simmons asked if there would be enough parking at the facility to support larger events. Ferrell noted that there are slated to be 34 parking spots, with a possibility of an agreement with adjacent private owners that has a large parking lot. Simmons questioned why the facility has 5500 square feet, but we are only using 2700 square feet. Ferrell stated that there is an upper and lower level, however the lower level is in a floodplain and is not able to be used for programming, only mechanicals and storage.

Kaminski asked if the screened porch will be kept. Ferrell stated that the windows would be closed in with glass but still give the open aesthetic for programs and events. Ferrell referenced the presentation that was shown at council meeting on Monday August 18.

PR-2025 July Director's Report

J. COMMITTEE REPORTS**i. Bicycle & Trail Advisory Committee (BTAC)**

Miller stated that they have not met however on Monday, August 17th council declared August share the road and Distracted Driver Awareness month and representatives from BTAC were invited to attend.

ii. Gahanna Active Senior Advisory Committee (GASAC)

Simmons stated the next meeting is September 16th at the Senior Center.

iii. Natural Resources Advisory Committee (NRAC)- None**K. POLL MEMBERS FOR COMMENT**

Ross asked for clarification of the Sweet Celebration event scheduled for August 26, 2025 from 4 - 7 p.m. at Creekside. Ferrell stated that it will be a public engagement session for the Citywide strategic plan. Ferrell stated that there will be opportunities to provide feedback on the outcomes of the strategic plan.

Simmons stated that the next Gahanna Market is on August 27, 2025.

i. Gahanna Parks & Recreation Foundation

Ross stated The Parks and Recreation Foundation Hops & Vines event is scheduled for Saturday September 6, 2025, and volunteers are needed. Miller stated that tickets to attend are also still available.

iii. Veteran's Advisory Committee

Miller stated the Veterans Memorial Traveling wall is coming to Gahanna in October 2025.

L. ADJOURNMENT