



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
Chrissy Kaminski
Harvey McCleskey
Kevin McGinn
Donna Simmons

Nichole Butler, Clerk

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

7:00 PM

Gahanna City Hall, Council Chambers

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The July 16, 2025 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was called to order at 7:01 PM. The agenda was published on July 11, 2025.

B. ROLL CALL

Staff in Attendance: Zac Guthrie, Parks Manager; Joe Hebdo, Golf Superintendent; Nichole Butler, Clerk

Present: 5 - Chrissy Kaminski, Donna Simmons, Jan Ross, Ken Shepherd and Harvey McCleskey

Absent: 2 - Kevin McGinn and Eric Miller

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Shepherd, seconded by Simmons that the June 18, 2025 Minutes be approved. The motion carried the following vote.

Yes: 5 - Kaminski, Simmons, Ross, Shepherd and McCleskey

Absent: 2 - McGinn and Miller

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D. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Ross requested to add a donation request for the Gahanna Parks & Recreation Foundation to new business.

E. HEARING OF VISITORS

F. CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS**G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS****H. NEW BUSINESS****GOLF UPDATE**

Guthrie presented an update on the Gahanna Golf Course. Guthrie highlighted that 2025 is the 50th anniversary of the Gahanna Municipal Golf course and a celebration of this will take place August 1st thru the 3rd at the course. Guthrie noted that Joe Hebdo, Golf Superintendent, was promoted as part of a reorganization and Krista Johnston was promoted to Golf Supervisor as part of a reclassification. Guthrie highlighted that in 2025 the Golf Ranger program became a paid part time position. Guthrie noted that in 2025, 10 new golf carts were purchased, a new rough area mower, and a new greens mower. Guthrie stated that there have also been cameras installed throughout the course that have been helpful to identify issues after hours and damages to the course. Shepherd asked if the cameras are in higher locations where they cannot be damaged. Hebdo stated that the poles are 16ft and with the camera location it is about 12ft off the ground. Guthrie noted they are solar powered cameras.

Hebdo stated that there are several events that have or will be taking place in 2025. Hebdo highlighted the return of the Chilli Bowl this spring, and Greenskeepers Revenge which will take place in the fall and was very successful in 2024. Hebdo stated that Starting New At Golf (SNAG) and Sips and Tips are both educational golf programs that have seen success in 2025. Hebdo Highlighted that as of the date of this meeting, program attendance is at around 233 participants compared to 2024, 124 program participants. Hebdo noted that in 2024, the Greenskeepers Revenge had an attendance of 211 participants. Simmons asked what the Greenskeepers Revenge was. Hebdo stated that he and his staff set obstacles throughout the course that people golf around.

Hebdo stated that so far in 2025 the golf course has been open 84 days out of the 114 since opening day in March. Hebdo stated that in 2024 the course was open 95 out of 121 days. Hebdo highlighted that the year-to-date revenue in 2025 for the golf course was \$288,238 as compared to the \$265,001 in 2024 and noted that year-to-date rounds of golf for 2025 are at around 12,793. Hebdo stated that the prices went up in 2025 for rounds of golf at around \$1 per round.

Ross stated that she saw in the directors' report there was some

damage to the course. Guthrie stated that was part of the reasoning behind the purchase of the course cameras, stating that they believe there have been some motorized scooters use on the course causing damage to the course. Ross stated there was a note in the directors' report about damage to the clubhouse. Guthrie stated that there was damage to the floor in the clubhouse by a rental but the damage was able to be repaired and that the renter pays a security deposit and part was withheld for that repair.

GPRF Hops and Vines Donation Request

Ross stated that the request is an annual request from the foundation for the Hops & Vines event. Ross stated that the donation will be used to auction or raffle towards the focus of this year's event which is the outdoor space at the Exploration Center at Price Road.

Donation Request: Gahanna Parks & Recreation Foundation (Hops and Vines)

1- 4 Hour Hannah Shelter rental (Max Value \$300)

1- GMAC Rental (Value \$250)

1- Family (1) pool pass (Max Value \$375)

12- 9 hole golf course passes (Value \$144)

Total Max Value: \$1,069

A motion was made by Simmons, second by Kaminski, that the request be approved as presented.

The

motion carried the following vote:

Yes: - Kaminski, McCleskey, Ross, Shepherd and Simmons

Absent: Miller, McGinn

I. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Guthrie highlighted that the Price Road Exploration Center Bids were opened and have since closed and that there were 5 bids for the project. Guthrie noted the team was happy with the quality of bids that were received. Shepherd asked if the bids go to specific companies. Guthrie stated that it is a public bid process per Ohio Revised Code and there is a specific process to follow with communication and how

it is processed. Guthrie stated the city uses Bid Express to promote and manage those bid processes where companies can submit their bids. Guthrie stated the Academy Park Improvements project is in process with POD Designs and the city and they are working towards final concepts. Simmons asked if the concession stand at Academy Park is being torn down. Guthrie stated yes, as the project includes relocation of the shelter and combination of the shelter and trail head, as well as relocation of the playground and renovations to the parking lot, and some of the multi-use paths.

Guthrie stated that Julie Predieri and the forestry team are in the process of doing a tree inventory for those trees in the active areas of the parks. Guthrie stated that it would be difficult to inventory every tree in the over 800 acres of parks however it will also include street trees and anticipate that to be completed in 2025. Guthrie noted this will assist with asset and maintenance management. Guthrie stated that as part of the 2025 staffing requests, there was an addition of a forestry foreman to oversee park trees, and this allowed for the existing foreman to focus on street trees.

Guthrie highlighted the senior center and how well their staff are providing programming for the seniors. Guthrie stated that aquatics is up 132 memberships compared to last year and there were increases to staffing and swim lessons as well. Guthrie stated that the events team hosted over 10,000 at the fireworks held at the Gahanna Golf course and they should be able to provide a more accurate number next month. Guthrie noted that the Creekside Blues and Jazz Festival, hosted by Visit Gahanna, went well and is heavily supported by the department as well as other city departments like police and service. Guthrie stated that the seasonal employment number was around 238 people.

PR- June Directors Report

J. COMMITTEE REPORTS

i. Bicycle & Trail Advisory Committee (BTAC)

None

ii. Gahanna Active Senior Advisory Committee (GASAC)

Simmons stated they met Tuesday July 15, 2025. Simmons stated that there are 577 members as of their meeting yesterday. Simmons highlighted that Tai Chi Chu was introduced recently by request of the members, and many of the programs were sold out. Simmons stated that the second new passenger van has been delivered and is being put to use. Simmons noted that the new vans have a step and a grab rail which has been extremely helpful to its members. Simmons stated the Senior Expo is returning on September 18th 2025 at the Gahanna Sanctuary.

iii. Natural Resources Advisory Committee (NRAC)

None

K. POLL MEMBERS FOR COMMENT

Simmons stated that her neighbor came over to tell her how much their son loves attending Camp Hannah. McCleskey stated his children also attended Camp Hannah in the past and enjoyed it. Kaminski stated her kids are currently at Camp Hannah and love it. Kaminski also stated her neighbors are noticing all the work and maintenance the department is doing.

L. ADJOURNMENT