



City of Gahanna

200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

Meeting Minutes Parks & Recreation Board

Chrissy Kaminski
Kevin McGinn, Chair
Daphne Moehring, Vice Chair
Donna Simmons, Secretary
Eric Miller
Jan Ross
Ken Shepherd

Nichole Butler, Clerk

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

7:00 PM

Gahanna City Hall, Committee Room

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair McGinn called the November 13, 2024 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board to order at 7:00 PM. The agenda was published on November 9, 2024.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Chrissy Kaminski, Kevin McGinn, Eric Miller, Daphne Moehring, Jan Ross, Ken Shepherd and Donna Simmons

Staff in Attendance: Stephania Ferrell, Director; Nichole Butler, Clerk; Brian Gill, Recreation Superintendent; Annette Baxter, Recreation Supervisor Senior & Adult programs; Lauren Gregory, Recreation Coordinator Senior & Adult programs.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Parks Board Minutes 10.09.2024

A motion was made by Shepherd, seconded by Simmons, that the Minutes be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Kaminski, McGinn, Miller, Moehring, Ross, Shepherd and Simmons

D. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Director Ferrell requested the Senior and Adult Programs update occur before old business. Kaminski request there be follow up to the Gahanna Soccer Association discussion added to Old Business.

E. HEARING OF VISITORS**F. OLD BUSINESS****Master Plan Action Plan**

Director Ferrell noted that the update is attached with changes provided in red. Ferrell noted that there is a goal for the department to introduce a cleaner tool to provide the accountability measures of the Master Plan. Moehring asked if the Farmers Market is on the plan for 2025. Ferrell stated that the team is currently in discussions of how to best accomplish the Farmers Market.

Master Plan Action Plan 11.2024

Gahanna Soccer Association

Kaminski requested that Director Ferrell provide an explanation of the relationship the department has with the Gahanna Soccer Association. Ferrell stated that they are an Affiliate User and are a non-profit agency managing the youth athletic groups such as Gahanna Junior League Sports, Gahanna Soccer Association and Gahanna Youth Football. Ferrell stated that there are certain requirements to be considered an Affiliate Athletic group with the city in that over 50% of the participants are Gahanna Residents, they are a non-profit, and they are recreational in nature. Ferrell stated that there are contracts with those affiliate groups to provide field or facility space. Ferrell stated that with Gahanna Soccer, their home site is Headley Park. Kaminski stated that at the October meeting the visitor spoke about offering a reciprocal board seat on their board and asked if this is something that they as the Parks Board should be doing. Ferrell stated that Chris Skidmore, Recreation Supervisor, is who coordinates with the affiliate groups who then communicates directly with Zac Guthrie, Parks Superintendent on the needs of the groups, and schedules the fields, and site maintenance. Ferrell stated that in the agreement for use of the fields the city receives a portion of the fee of each player with the non-resident fee being higher. Ferrell stated that the Parks Boards purpose is to hear comment from the public, and that it would make sense for someone to be present for their meetings. Moehring stated that it would make more sense for the affiliate groups to provide updates at the Parks Board meetings, possibly quarterly or at the end of season, for all the Board to be present. Ross asked about the concerns that were presented regarding the signage. Ferrell stated that the department verified that there are currently four (4) signs regarding smoking, field priority usage, and dog

use. Ross asked about rolling and painting of lower McCorkle. Ferrell stated that the department rolls and lines game fields only. The practice space is not lined due to the financial commitment. Gill stated that fields are lined for some contractual programs.

H. CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS

G. NEW BUSINESS

Adult and Senior Program Update

Director Ferrell introduced Annette Baxter, Recreation Supervisor over Adult and Senior programs, as well as Lauren Gregory, Recreation Coordinator. Baxter stated that the yoga classes for the general adult population have been successful with consistent enrollment. Baxter stated that the department was able to offer three different types of art classes for adults including watercolor, acrylic and ceramics with availability of 35 classes, with only nine (9) classes having enrollments and running. Baxter stated that the Creekside Cornhole league was offered in the spring as well as summer however both seasons were canceled due to low enrollment. Baxter noted that in 2025 the department is moving the cornhole league to Edison Brewing Company in hopes to revamp the program. Baxter stated that the department instructional beginner and intermediate pickleball classes are very successful and selling out. Baxter stated that new in 2025 the department is partnering with Edison Brewery to offer macramé classes, flower arranging, paint and sip and wreath and bow making courses. Baxter stated that in addition they will offer an adult kickball league, fly fishing and goat yoga. Baxter noted that the Adult and Senior programs plan to kick off a Neighbors helping Neighbors program which will involve volunteers and staff helping to clean up yards of seniors in the Gahanna area. Moehring stated that a possible resource to reach out to is the Gahanna Ministerial group which connects local churches for a volunteer resource. Gill stated that often the department will get groups reaching out to offer volunteers and the department will have to come up with a project. Gill stated that with this program the department will have a list of ready projects to be able to easily coordinate these more purposeful volunteer opportunities. Shepherd asked if the schools still make it a requirement for students to complete a volunteer hours. Baxter stated that they have a meeting scheduled with a senior student and will be discussing this opportunity. Baxter stated that the Senior Center has 541 active memberships. Gregory stated that an annual program survey is sent out to members to see which programs they like to attend. Gregory noted that the survey showed the most popular programs were special events, lunches and meals, card games and day trips. Gregory stated that the provided

handout notes the participation numbers for the programs and highlights. Gregory noted that the Golf League had 74 participants this year. Gregory stated that they welcome their members to start programs that they wish to offer and will provide supplies and space and advertising. Gregory noted that the day trips are one of the most popular offerings and sell out within the first day usually and often have waitlists. Miller asked if there was anything that can be done for those on the waitlist not to be turned away, such as more staff or more transportation. Baxter stated that both transportation and staffing are a limitation of the trips currently, however they are working towards growing their offerings. Gill stated that the department has two 15 passenger vans that are used for trips that allow the staff to take approximately 20 people comfortably for the seniors. Gill noted that there are also only two full time staff, and one part time staff member for the Senior Center which will limit the scheduling as the center is to remain open normal hours. Shepherd asked if there were any plans to offer a trip to Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Baxter stated that currently the Senior Center staff only participate in day trips, however they are partnered with companies such as Prime Tours and World of Travel which offer larger overnight trips for seniors and are not just Gahanna Senior Center members but from many others and in return for providing their audience the Senior Center receives some revenue if our members sign up for these trips. Baxter stated that World of Travel and Prime Tours offer trips such as Australia, Thailand and many others. Gregory stated that the department was able to offer 26-day trips in 2024. Baxter noted that in 2024 the department is on track to accept \$26,000 in in-kind donations for senior meals and programs. Baxter stated currently they are at 34% cost recovery for their programs for 2024 as compared to 25% in 2023. Baxter stated that the senior expo was hosted at the Gahanna Sanctuary in 2024, with 180 participants and 40 vendors with 5 vendors on the waitlist. Baxter noted that a new event for 2024 was the Senior Prom which was offered as an evening program. Baxter stated that students from the Paul Mitchell school came to provide free hair and makeup for the seniors, as well as a DJ, food donations, totaling \$2600 of in-kind donations for this program. Ferrell stated that annually the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association hosts the Awards of Excellence which receives hundreds of submissions from across the state. Ferrell stated that the Senior Prom was submitted for an award in the category of Special Events, which is very competitive, and the department was just notified that the program received First Place which also allows for the program to be eligible for the Governor's award which will be announced at the association conference in February 2025.

Senior and Adult Program Update Handout

Pricing Policy

Director Ferrell stated that the attached pricing policy is something that is reviewed annually by the Parks & Recreation Board. Ferrell noted that there is clarifying language regarding cancelations that if a class is canceled and a make-up date is unable to be scheduled, there will be a household credit added to the registrant's account for use on a future program. Ferrell noted that all other changes are format adjustments.

2025 Pricing Policy Draft Redline

A motion was made by Ross second by Kaminski to recommend to council for approval the 2025 Parks and Recreation Pricing Policy. The motion carried the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Kaminski, McGinn, Miller, Moehring, Ross, Shepherd and Simmons

Fee Waiver- GLHS

Butler stated that the attached request from Tiffany Hanna, ESS teacher at Gahanna Lincoln High School is for a fee waiver to use Woodside Green Park Shelter on Friday May 16, 2025 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM for an event involving the High School and all three Gahanna Middle Schools. Butler stated this request has not been brought forward to the Parks and Recreation Board in the last five years, at least not by this teacher.

GLHS Fee Waiver Request

A motion was made by Kaminski second by Miller to approve the requested fee waiver.

Yes: 6 - Kaminski, McGinn, Miller, Ross, Shepherd and Simmons

Abstain: 1 - Moehring

I. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ferrell highlighted the Mountain Bike Trail is nearly complete. Ferrell stated that the department is waiting to hear back from the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) on the Technical Assistance Grant to help with improving the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data that will assist with trails as well as other infrastructure throughout the city. Miller asked if there was an amount associated to the grant. Ferrell stated that the donation would be in-kind. Ferrell highlighted that the holiday display will be something to pay attention to this season, as a lot of work has improved the already impressive display.

Miller asked if the shelter house at Academy is planned to be a new build, or addition to the existing building. Ferrell stated the shelter would be a new build.

Simmons asked if there was anyone researching costs for a temporary skate park. Ferrell stated that she received a request from the residents who spoke out in opposition to the Action Park being placed at Lower McCorkle to speak with them. Ferrell stated that there was a request made to understand what the cost would be if there was to be temporary skate features placed at Shull Park. Ferrell stated that the surface at Shull Park would need to completely be replaced, however the department is going thru the exercise to determine the cost of site improvements as well as skate elements. Ferrell noted that frequent flooding is a concern and will be considered in the review. Simmons asked if there is any thought of putting the permanent skate park back at Shull Park. Ferrell stated no. Ross stated that she feels that no matter where the Action Park will be placed there will be opposition as there are few places to move it to. Ferrell stated that as the Aquatic Master Plan is further explored it will also help to explore locations such as the southwest floodplain where the Gahanna Swimming Pool currently exists and that will help us understand what available property we have.

Miller provided Kudos to the staff for a well-run Great Gahanna Goblin Fest.

Directors Report October 2025

J. COMMITTEE REPORTS

i. Bicycle & Trail Advisory Committee (BTAC)

None

ii. Gahanna Active Senior Advisory Committee (GASAC)

Simmons stated that the next meeting is November 19, 2024 at 3:00 PM at the Senior Center.

Senior Spotlight Nov-Dec 2024

iii. Natural Resources Advisory Committee (NRAC)

None

K. POLL MEMBERS FOR COMMENT

i. Gahanna Parks & Recreation Foundation

None

ii. School District Update

Moehring stated that the Gahanna Lincoln High School Principal spoke at the last School Board meeting on the positive effect of block schedules. Moehring stated that the new Athletic Director at the High School also presented and noted that there were nearly 600 students involved in athletics this fall, out of 2,400 students. Moehring stated that the new high school is now fully enclosed. Moehring stated that the school district is working on their 5-year forecast to be presented in the next month.

iii. Veteran's Advisory Committee

Shepherd stated that the Veteran's Day event was well attended. Miller stated that there were 29 new bricks dedicated. Miller stated that since school was still in session, the attendance seemed lower, however, it was a great event.

L. ADJOURNMENT