



City of Gahanna
Meeting Minutes - Draft
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, September 17, 2025

7:00 PM

Gahanna City Hall, Council Chambers

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Ross called the September 17, 2026 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board to order at 7:02 PM. The agenda was published on September 12, 2025.

B. ROLL CALL

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

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[2025-0179](#) PR Board Minutes 08.20.2025

Attachments: [PR Board Minutes 8.20.2025](#)

Approved

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

2026 Budget Draft

Director Ferrell stated that the Board received the draft budget in the August meeting. Ross asked about the large increase in taxable sales at the Golf Course compared to the expenses. Ferrell noted that the revenues are projected based on trends and that it is expected as attendance at the golf course grows. Ferrell noted that taxable items are set to 100% cost recovery and are expected to make a profit therefore the revenues will always be higher. Ross asked if all of the cost recovery goals are in a good place with the draft budget. Ferrell stated yes. The budget is requested as if the facilities are operable, fully staffed, all days of the season. Ross asked if the increase in profitability for camps is because the department is expecting to expand the camp attendance as well. Ferrell stated that the demand for summer camps continues to grow. The positive staff retention and overall volume of applications received for seasonal hiring has allowed the department to expand the operations.

Shepherd asked why there was an increase to materials and supplies for senior operations. Ferrell stated that they are excited to move into a new building in 2026 so there is an expectation that the materials and supplies will be needed. Ross asked if the revenue projections for the senior center were being conservative due to the move date. Ferrell stated yes, there is an anticipation of increased membership and participation, however there are many unknowns. The revenue projections will remain conservative until there is a better understanding to how the new location will impact the overall operation. Shepherd asked why there was an increase to contract services for street trees from 2024 \$212,000 appropriated to \$427,000 2025 with only \$99,000 spent to date. Ferrell stated that there are a few factors, the expenses that are represented are July end of month values. There are multiple months that will incur expenditures. Items such as a tree inventory as well as a large fall planting will be expended by end of year.

Miller asked if the golf and pools requests are reflective of any price increases for 2026. Ferrell states that yes, the budget requests are including any anticipated increases to charges for service.

Kaminski asked why no utilities were listed for Hunters Ridge Pool. Ferrell stated that it was an error and will be corrected as there are utilities used at Hunters Ridge.

[2025-0181](#)

PR Draft Budget 2026

Attachments: [PR-Budget Tracker - 2026 Draft Request](#)

H. NEW BUSINESS

Fee Waiver GLHS

Ross presented the fee waiver for Gahanna Lincoln High School for a class to use Woodside Green Park Shelter on Friday September 19, 2025 for the 10a - 2p timeframe. Ross noted that this is a first request for this teacher however this class typically utilizes the shelter for their students at the end of the school year.

McCleskey asked if there was a policy or process on how fee waivers are handled. Butler explained that per the pricing policy, Gahanna Schools receive free use of the shelters Monday-Thursday without having to request from the Board, Friday thru Sunday are considered the weekend and would need a request if the fees are requested to be waived. Butler noted that all non-profit organizations can receive a 25% discount on weekday facility rentals per the pricing policy. Ross stated that there has not been a formal process to how the Board decides who gets a fee waiver or how it is determined and thinks there should be some sort of process made. Ferrell noted that the pricing policy will be coming to the board in October for review and approval.

Motion

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

[2025-0180](#)

PR Fee Waiver GLHS

Attachments: [PR- GLHS Fee waiver Memo](#)
[PR-GLHS Fee Waiver 9.19.25](#)

I. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ferrell presented the directors report. Ferrell highlighted the participation of the community in the aquatic's facilities. Ferrell noted that September 18, 2025, is the Senior Expo at the Gahanna Sanctuary, and that Wednesday September 24 is the final Gahanna Market for the year. Ross asked how the feedback was on the Sweet Celebration for the Our Gahanna Strategic Plan. Ferrell stated that it was well attended at had a lot of positive comments around the plans that are anticipated. Kaminski asked if a formal community garden plan was set up with Gahanna Residents in Need (GRIN). Ferrell stated the community gardens at Friendship and Hannah Parks have signage posted that encourages participants to donate any abundance of produce to GRIN. Ferrell noted that there has been good response from the gardeners and the horticulture team has enjoyed taking on the task. Simmons asked if the GRIN gardens on Granville Street have been utilized by the GRIN participants themselves. Ferrell stated that they have been wildly successful, and the department and GRIN are in discussions on how to add more raised gardens in that location.

McCleskey asked how the co-op with the Columbus Academy for mountain bike trail maintenance is going. Ferrell stated that staff had the opportunity to meet with the team members from Columbus Academy and discussed what their needs are with the trail as well as opportunities and amenities that might benefit trail users. Ferrell stated that there is great participation from Columbus Academy. McCleskey expressed concern that since Gahanna does not have a mountain bike team and Columbus Academy does, that there may be challenges if one group takes ownership of the maintenance. Ferrell stated that the concern is valid and that since this is a new trail there will be a lot to learn for city staff on how to manage and maintain usage. Ferrell noted that it is a shared asset and will likely be treated similarly to an athletic field. Shepherd asked if motorized bikes are allowed on the mountain bike trail. Ferrell noted that Class 1 electric bikes are allowed, mopheads are not allowed.

[2025-0182](#)

PR August Directors Report

Attachments: [PR-Directors report August 2025](#)

J. COMMITTEE REPORTS

i. Bicycle & Trail Advisory Committee (BTAC)

Miller stated BTAC met this evening. Miller mentioned they discussed the Active Transportation and Transportation and Mobility plan. Miller stated that they discussed the Bike Rodeo event tentatively scheduled for April 18, 2026 at Academy Park. Miller stated they also discussed the Big Walnut Trail section 8. Miller noted he will send out the minutes from the meeting once received.

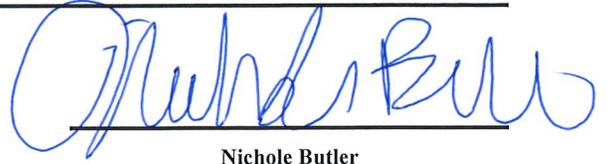
ii. Gahanna Active Senior Advisory Committee (GASAC)

Simmons stated that GASAC met on Tuesday September 16. Simmons noted that they are up to 595 members, with 24 new members between July and September of this year. Simmons stated that GASAC would like to see membership increased. Simmons highlighted that the senior golf league end of season cookout had 92 members in attendance which was the highest it has ever been. The next meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2025, at 3pm.

iii. Natural Resources Advisory Committee (NRAC)**K. POLL MEMBERS FOR COMMENT**

Shepherd stated the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall will be visiting Gahanna October 3 thru the 6, 2025 and encouraged the board members and community to go visit the exhibit. Miller stated that they will also need volunteers for the event. Ferrell stated that she will send the link out for how to volunteer and encouraged the Board if they had the ability to volunteer to do so as the display will be volunteer staffed 24 hours a day while in Gahanna.

L. ADJOURNMENT



Nichole Butler
Clerk

APPROVED by the Parks & Recreation Board, this
15th day of October 2025.



Jan Ross

