



City of Gahanna

200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

Meeting Minutes Parks & Recreation Board

Eric Miller, Chair
Donna Simmons, Vice Chair
Holly Haines
Chrissy Kaminski
Michael Moseley
Jan Ross
Ken Shepherd

Harmoni Grable, Clerk

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

7:00 PM

Gahanna City Hall, Council Chambers

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The agenda was published on Friday, May 15, 2026

B. ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Chrissy Kaminski, Eric Miller, Ken Shepherd, Donna Simmons, Holly Haines and Michael Moseley

Absent: 1 - Jan Ross

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

C.

Attachments: [MM 4.15.26](#)

A motion was made by Shepherd, seconded by Kaminski, that the meeting minutes be Approved as Amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Kaminski, Miller, Shepherd, Simmons and Haines

Absent: 1 - Ross

Abstain: 1 - Moseley

D. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

E. HEARING OF VISITORS

G. CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Attachments: [Pricing Policy 2026 UPDATE](#)

Director Stephanie Ferrell explained that a proposed policy revision was included in the board packet and would be added to the meeting minutes. The proposed change would allow the director or designee to require deposits for fee-waived rentals or equipment rentals, depending on the nature of the reservation. She stated that the purpose of the change is to give staff more flexibility in making decisions-such as allowing schools to use rental facilities at no charge during the week-without needing to bring every request before the board. Ferrell emphasized that the language was only a suggested edit intended to begin discussion, and that the board would decide whether the approach was appropriate. Mr. Miller asked if once approved if it would go to the City Council for review.

Director Stephanie Ferrell explained that the pricing policy is reviewed annually by the board and that any changes must also be approved by council. She noted that reviews are typically conducted during the fourth quarter, but the board has the flexibility to make changes sooner if desired and still conduct another review later in the year. Ferrell emphasized that the policy is only required to be reviewed once annually, though additional reviews are permitted.

Mr. Miller asked if approved, when it would go into effect. Mrs. Ferrell stated that it would go into effect whenever council approves it depending on when it can be added to the council's agenda.

Mrs. Kaminski explained to the new board member that the department charges fees for shelter reservations and occasionally receives requests for discounts or fee waivers, which are reviewed by the board. She said the board is working toward a consistent policy for handling these requests, including situations where rental fees may be waived but security deposits would still be required and refunded if no damage occurs. She added that there had not been any known abuse of the policy, but the issue had simply been overlooked previously.

Mrs. Simmons asked what type of events would be charged a fee or not charged a fee. Director Stephanie Ferrell explained that deposit requirements are determined on a case-by-case basis, making it difficult to create a blanket policy. She noted that in recent years, the GMAC recreation trailer has typically been the only rental that still requires a deposit because it contains valuable equipment and assets

that could be damaged, lost, or misplaced. In contrast, she said shelter rentals generally have not presented similar concerns.

A motion was made by Haines, seconded by Shepherd, that the changes to the Pricing Policy be Recommend for Approval. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Kaminski, Miller, Shepherd, Simmons and Haines

Absent: 1 - Ross

Abstain: 1 - Moseley

H. NEW BUSINESS

Attachments: [NCH Diabetes Fun Fair - Waiver Request](#)

Clerk Mrs. Grable informed the board of a request from Nationwide Children's Hospital to waive fees for its upcoming Diabetes Fun Fair on October 24 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. She explained that the event would include booths, pop-up tents, nutrition and cooking classes, insurance assistance, and other resources designed to support families of children with diabetes and help connect them with available services and information.

Mrs. Kaminski asked what brought them to Gahanna to reserve the space. Mrs. Grable stated that they were looking for a space that would accommodate their needs which has opened the possibility to partner with them more.

A motion was made by Kaminski, seconded by Simmons, that the waiver for the fee and deposit be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Kaminski, Miller, Shepherd, Simmons and Haines

Absent: 1 - Ross

Abstain: 1 - Moseley

Gahanna Swimming Pool Site Assessment

Director Stephanie Ferrell explained that the department and a steering committee conducted an evaluation of aquatic facilities throughout the city during 2025 and developed a draft aquatics plan. To determine whether recommendations for the Gahanna Swimming Pool site are feasible, the department issued a request for proposals for a site assessment. She noted that the site has several challenges, including floodplain and regulatory floodway concerns, as well as pool facilities that are more than 50 years old. Ferrell stated that proposals are due May 26, after which the department plans to contract with a vendor to begin the assessment process. She clarified that no board action was required and that the update was for informational

purposes only.

Mr. Miller asked if Hunters Ridge Pool was also in need of work or if it was acceptable at this time. Director Stephanie Ferrell explained that the Hunters Ridge Pool is not expected to undergo significant changes. She said community feedback showed interest in developing a larger aquatic center, but the Hunters Ridge location does not have enough acreage or the ideal location to support such a project. Because the Gahanna Swimming Pool site is more centrally located and has sufficient space, it was identified as the preferred location for evaluating the potential development of a larger aquatic facility.

Mrs. Simmons asked for clarification on whether any changes are planned for the existing pool itself-specifically if the current structure is still sound or if the proposal only involves adding new features or amendments to the site. Director Stephanie Ferrell explained that the front pool area at the Gahanna Swimming Pool has structural complexities. She noted that the department will need to make decisions moving forward that could involve structural changes or improvements to the pool itself, not just adding new features.

Mrs. Simmons verified that the construction would not begin this year. Director Stephanie Ferrell clarified that no immediate action or changes are being made at this stage. She emphasized that the process is simply due diligence to better understand the site's condition and to evaluate expectations and potential cost implications before moving forward with any improvements.

I. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Attachments: [PR Directors Report February 2026](#)

Director Stephanie Ferrell provided highlights from the directors' report, noting several project updates and operational items. She shared that the department received an OEPA (Ohio's EPA) Scrap Tire Grant of \$113,000 for the Academy Park playground, which will allow the installation of a fully poured-in-place surface, improving accessibility and usability. She also mentioned that design concepts are being developed for the Ashburnham playground as part of ongoing efforts to update and maintain park facilities.

Ferrell reported that the Big Walnut Creek pedestrian bridge near Stonybrook Church has been completed and is now open to the public, finishing ahead of schedule. She added that pool season is approaching, with a successful soft opening already held for a middle school visit at the Gahanna Swimming Pool to help staff prepare for operations. She concluded by noting that seasonal hiring is complete, there is a strong return of staff, and she expressed pride in the

professionalism and performance of the team.

Mrs. Simmons asked if there were any updates to the Price Road location. Director Stephanie Ferrell reported that progress on the project is going very well, noting that the facility looks significantly more polished and that asphalt work has begun, with some parking lot work still remaining. She stated the project is approaching substantial completion and remains on schedule to allow programs to be offered in the fall.

J. COMMITTEE REPORTS

i. Bicycle & Trail Advisory Committee (BTAC)

No updates.

ii. Gahanna Active Senior Advisory Committee (GASAC)

Mrs. Simmons reported that there was no meeting held the previous day due to recent elections for new board members. She added that the next meeting is scheduled for July 15 and noted that anyone is welcome to attend.

iii. Natural Resources Advisory Committee (NRAC)

Mrs. Ferrell provided an update on the Adopt a Park program, noting that it has recently been launched and currently has seven participants signed up. She explained that those individuals will undergo background checks and receive training before participating. Ferrell stated that the program is intended to engage community members who already have an interest in supporting parks and help strengthen community involvement.

Mrs. Kaminski asked how they found those who were adopting the parks. Mrs. Ferrell stated she was not certain, but typically the information came from the Explore Guide or social media where there are platforms for that information. Mrs. Simmons asked what parks are being adopted. Mrs. Ferrell explained that participation in the Adopt a Park program will vary depending on the individual volunteer and their interests. She noted that larger parks such as Academy Park and Gahanna Woods are expected to be included, but assignments will be tailored based on where participants live and what areas they are interested in helping with.

Mrs. Simmons asked what roles they would play when assigned to a park. Mrs. Ferrell explained that Adopt a Park participants will be

involved in various maintenance activities, including litter cleanup and invasive species removal. She noted that volunteers will receive training and may use hand tools to help provide additional support and oversight throughout the parks. Mr. Miller asked if they were all Gahanna residents. Mrs. Ferrell said she is not certain but would assume the program would include participation in those types of activities.

Mr. Miller asked whether the participants have any specific background or experience that led them to be interested in parks, or if they are simply general volunteers without specialized qualifications. Ferrell responded that the participants have not yet been screened, but generally volunteers in the program tend to either have relevant experience or a personal interest in parks and related activities.

Mrs. Simmons asked if that the goats have completed their task and are gone. Mrs. Ferrell stated that they concluded their job and shared a comment from the City Forester that seasonal conditions affect work productivity. She explained that goats tend to work harder and faster during colder temperatures, while in the summer heat they slow down and take more breaks due to the increased difficulty of working in high temperatures.

Mr. Shepherd asked if the goats cost the city to clear the areas. Mrs. Ferrell stated that the department uses a third-party contractor called "Go Goats Go" and noted that, financially, the arrangement makes sense. She explained that for the amount of work completed and the time frame in which it is done, the contract is a cost-effective solution. Mrs. Kaminski added that the approach also helps manage required employee breaks while providing a more visually appealing method for removing unwanted vegetation. Mrs. Ferrell explained that the use of the third-party service also improves safety, noting that areas like the golf course include steep inclines where operating equipment can be dangerous for staff. She added that for multiple reasons, the approach makes practical and logical sense.

K. POLL MEMBERS FOR COMMENT

Mr. Shepherd invited everyone to the Veterans Memorial Day Service at Veterans Park. Board members welcomed new board member Mike Moseley who will be sworn in at the next meeting, to the Parks and Recreation Board.

L. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.