

-1-

Bexley Recreation Board Meeting
Thursday, August 3, 2023.

Roger Carroll - May I have a motion to call the meeting to order.

-So moved

-Second

Roll Call

Eric Acton - absent

Ann Brennan - absent

Roger Carroll - present

Clare Ceballos - absent

All DeAngelo - present

Joanne Pickrell - present

Bexley School Board

Jessica Saad

City Council Representative

Roger Carroll - may I have a motion to approve the June minutes

Aly DeAngelo - so moved

Joanne Pickrell - second

All in favor - the motion is approved

Director's Report

Preservation and Enhancement Committee Update

Mike Price - we had a kick off meeting as I reported at our June meeting. We had a planning meeting with OHM advisors. They are the advisors that will manage the project. We had a meeting on June 24 with the administration and Ann Brennan was there. We also set up the next committee meeting August 29. The OHM staff was on site to do park inventory. We talked about the Four Season Shelter potentially to be built in the Camp Woods location. They got a good sense of the park and will start to bring some ideas and concepts back to the committee.

Year of the Parks Update

Pond

Mike Price- The Pond at Commonwealth is still under construction. We've had to make some slight modifications as they have done the install. Some things we noticed for a safety perspective and the size and scale perspective. We have updated the construction team and they have their orders so they can move forward. I do not have a timeline but I hope in a month or so we will be close.

-2-

Skate Park

Mike Price - We haven't signed a contract yet. We now have a clear understanding of the scope of work. We are pushing for the design part of it and not so much construction.

Natural Play Area

Mike Price - We continue to look for options for a natural play area including a location for a slide that is built into the hillside behind the shelter. We have to identify the location of the natural play apparatus. We are hoping for some addition to north area on the back end of the back meadow, around the existing playground

Dog Park Opening

Mike Price - The dog park opened on Sunday, June 11. We have received positive feedback on the dog park. At this point we have not received any calls of concern on the operation of it. Grant Archer of the Service Department did an amazing job. People really enjoy the shade.

Splash Pad Opening

Mike Price - The Splash Pad opening was July 16 at Schneider Park. It is being used non stop. We are still dealing with adjusting the pressure and continue to dial in a few things. We will treat the hours with school being back in session. It is an amenity that has been well received by the community.

Summer Events Update

Main Event

Mike Price - Held second Main Event on Friday, July 28. The last Main Event will be held at Capital on September 29 and will be showing Top Gun.

Jazz In The Park

Mike Price - The last Jazz in the Park was held at Havenwood Park on Sunday July 30. We will have a Jazz branded Smoke and Fire event at Schneider Park on Saturday August 26 from 5:00 - 9:00 Food for the BBQ competition tasting is free but limited. Pecan Penny's will be there selling.

National Night Out

Mike price - This event was held at Commonwealth Park on Tuesday, August 1, 2023. This was a Bexley Police Department community event. This is a national event but we never held one until this year. The Recreation Department helped support with logistics and supplies. The Police Department did the heavy lifting. Dawn Overly took the lead on the event for the Police Department. We decided on Commonwealth as a precursor to the Columbia project where we can close off Columbia and hold more events over here. It is a vision for the Colombia Plaza.

Splish Splash and Dash

Mike Price - Splish Splash and Dash will be held Saturday August 19. As of now we have 220 registrants and will generally end up with 315 - 350. We are working on getting volunteers. Very grateful to the Cross Country team for volunteering.

Labor Day Block Party

Mike Price - The Labor Day Block Party will be Sunday, September 3 and will take place on Main Street in conjunction with the Brewfest. We are still planning but there will be bounce houses and other activities.

Summer Programing Update

Pool

Mike Price - The pool season has gone very well. Staffing has been very strong. We are getting into the part of the season where staff is going back to school and involved in athletics but still feel they are in a better position than in years past.

We had 3,341 resident memberships and 258 non-resident memberships. When we did an analysis on going to a \$50.00 membership we estimated 3,720 memberships and we are at 3,600 so we were within 3%. When the administration decided to do this it wasn't driven by the finances. It did increase the number of participants we had. 20% more members doesn't mean 20% more attendance. A natural reaction to a \$50 membership is people don't attend as often. There is not a direct correlation between 20% membership and 20% attendance.

We are having our first Teen Night at the pool this Friday. We have about 80 registered. We Also plan to do a Halloween Bash for teens this year the day before the adult party.

Jeffrey Summer Camp

Mike Price - The last day for JSC is next Friday August 11 and they have their talent show on August 10. At that time we will announce the Ryan Solomon Memorial Staff Scholarship. This is a \$2,500 scholarship to an employee.

It's been a good summer. As with the Pool we are in a much better position from a staffing standpoint. When you have more staff applying you can be more selective and end up with a better trained staff. Colin Cane who has been with our department for five years. He is a full time site supervisor at Montrose for before and after care and runs Camp Park in the summer. He is resigning at the end of the summer. He has been a tremendous asset.

We have had success because of the quality of people that fill the full time positions.

Recreation Board Appointment

Mike Price - The Mayor Kessler selected Tyler Stanley to the Recreation Board. It will go before City Council at the next meeting.

Roger Carroll - In light of the incident that happened to Labron James's son do we have AED devices available ?

Mike Price - Yes it's been a hot topic for the past year with the incident with the Buffalo Bills player and the incident at the Academy Basketball team. We have AED machines at Jeffrey Mansion and the Pool. Council supported AED machines in every Police cruiser. All of our staff are trained on AED. We have been meeting with Lee Nathans about expanding AED access. We have discussed what it might look like to have AED machines at our parks. Potentially Outside the school as well. They have them at the schools and athletic trainers. But in the summer that

stuff is all inside. We will have some discussion on how they will be used not only by the public but also recreation programs that are held outside there. It also may add some additional support to coaches who may not have a trainer there at all times. We are going to look at potentially adding them to the parks outside. It is an expensive proposition. We have to look at how sophisticated the boxes are. Do they have security or temperature control. You have to do a life safety check periodically. Housing them outside would need some temperature control. They could have two way communication with the Police Department. It will be a conversation with City Council about the investment. We also need to involve the Mayor and see at what level he supports this and what is the best way to go. They are also including businesses, trying to include the entire community. It's a city wide effort.

New Business

Mike Price - Cate Swindel has resigned her position as Preschool Director. We were made aware of this on Monday, July 31, 2023. We have to pivot quickly and prepare for a school year that starts in about three weeks. We appointed Angels Budendeck, who was the Assistant Director to interim Director. We are in a good position because we have a lot of returning teachers. We will need to have a three day lead teacher. Our goal right now is to get the Pre-school up and running and ready for the first day of school. We will focus on filling the Director position in the future.

MOU

Mike Price - We have a new MOU with Columbus for the year to year use of Wolfe and Clowson. I have been in touch with Harly Williams about this. We hold the MOU and we are allowed to let other entities use it , Capital University and Bexley Schools.

Roger Carroll - May I have a motion to adjourn.

-So moved

-Second