

-1-

Recreation Board Meeting
January 8, 2025.

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

Ann Brennan - So moved.

Tyler Stanley - Second

All in favor - All in favor say aye

Roger Carroll - The motion is approved

Roger Carroll - May I have a motion to approve the December 2024 minutes.

Ann Brennan - So moved

Clare Ceballos - Second

All in favor in favor say aye

Roger Carroll - The motion is approved

Roll Call

Eric Acton - Present

Ann Brennan - Present

Roger Carroll - Present

Clare Ceballos - Present

Aly DeAngelo - Present

Joanne Pickrell - Absent

School Board Rep.

Tyler Stanley - Present

Lori Ann Feibel - City Council Rep

Memorial Tree Policy - Review

Mike Price - Yes we introduced this at the last meeting and wanted to see if there is any feedback.

Roger Carroll - do you want to give a quick overview.

Mike Price - Some of the conversation was brought up if it should be a memorial, in terms of a memorial tree . Also donation amounts.

The concept here is just to have a policy. For if and when people want to donate trees, which happens often, whether through the parks or through the city park department street trees. They get requests quite a bit and we really don't have a good policy for when we want to accept them or how we want to move forward with them. Again the concept around this too is to make it clear that they are not picking the tree, and it will be picked based on what our needs are and how the recognition is going to work.

That is the general gist, we are trying to get something more concrete together.

-2-

Roger Carroll - if I wanted to plant a tree you guys would say we are going to plant a tree and is going to be planted here is that OK with you. It's not like I get to say I want this tree and I want to plant it here.

Mike Price - It would be here are the plans and we have in place where we know we want to put these trees so do any of these seem to be a good fit. Otherwise it's not a matter of I want this tree in this specific location.

Aly DeAngelo - Forgive me if I missed it but what were you talking about like recognition as far as plaques and that kind of stuff.

Mike Price - Yes but just a general policy about what level gets you what.

Roger Carroll - Is there a timeline

Mike Price - No there is not . It may be brought forth in February.

Roger Carroll - Is this being brought before the tree commission?

Mike Price - Yes it will be.

Director's Report

2025 Winter/Spring Brochure / Registration

Mike Price - The Winter Spring Brochure registration was this yesterday. The brochure went out December 16 to the public. Registration was extremely strong. The first day we had 2,194 registrants, generating \$174,000 in revenue. If you compare that to 2024 registration 1147 registrants and \$113,000 in revenue. Year over year we are seeing a 52% increase in registrations and 54% increase in revenue.

Now when you see those numbers I ask what is going on here. There are a handful of programs that we promoted in this brochure that last year were in the 2024 Summer brochure, Camp Adventure being one of them, which is about \$20,000 in revenue. So we do expect that there will result in some reduction of the 2025 Summer registration numbers.

There is just some sort of timing or reasons as to why there is such an increase so we would expect to see some decrease in the summer.

But also there are over twenty new programs we have in this brochure relative to the last Winter/Spring brochure and that is also part of it . That is also a big part of it. So while it is probably not a true 54 % increase in our revenue when we get to the end of the year there is definitely a significant increase in participation closer to 20%.

Our programers did a great job of offering new programing its always exciting to see a good response from the community

Roger Carroll - Are there any programs that people have been closed out

-3-

Mike Price - Yes. A lot of Coach Chris's class have some. We will evaluate the ones with large wait lists, talk to the instructor and programmer, and see if we have the space.

This is more difficult in the winter because of being inside. Check to see if the instructor has the capacity check dates, and look to see if you can squeeze a kid in.

Dance is another one that gets filled up at this time of year. Spring Tennis, Youth Pickleball.

Congratulations to Kevin Smith who oversees the programmers that do the majority of this type of program.

Day Care does not run through the through system . This is more Katie's end. Kevin and his staff Andrew Rudden and Daniel Heiser. Also Kristen Schweitzer had a lot of additional senior programs.

Ice Rink - Updates

Mike Price - We filled the ice rink on January 2nd. It looked like we could skate yesterday but with the snow it caused issues. Snow insulates it and prevents the ice from freezing as well and turns it into slush.

Thank you to Columbus Fire, Ian Garrett , a Bexley resident, helps to coordinate the process to provide hoses and helps us fill it. We fill it off the hydrants otherwise using a regular tap it would take forever.

We hope to be skating on Friday, January 10th. The forecast looks like we can be skating the next 14 days.

2024 Budget

Mike Price - I want to recap the end of the year Rec. Fund. We talked about the Pool Fund and went through the pool report. This is a full view of the entire Rec. Fund which includes all programs as well as Pool or general fund items like Parks Maintenance, Mansion Maintenance and Senior Programs Before and After Care, Preschool, Summer Camp and Mansion Rentals.

For the first time per covid we operated revenue over expenditures in the positive \$58,000. In 2022 it showed a net positive but that was partially impacted by covid relief money. The first time we did that was 2018 or 2017. Prior to that it was a \$250,000 to \$350,000 loss every year. That was at a time when the financial situation was tough 2009 - 2010. We made an effort to see if we could help the city's finances and reduce the tax burden on the programming side of what we do.

Covid hit and decimated our finances. Covid relief subsidies helped us. To get back to operating in the black this year from operational costs, the capital fund items there are a lot of other things that go into it. But just simply our programs cost to run and how much revenue we bring in it we've covered our costs in 2024. Obviously we had a Rec.Fund transfer because when we go into budgeting we don't know, we budget at a loss. If you look at the 2025 budget we are budgeting at a loss of \$284,000. I would expect we will be at least around flat next year.

-4-

I appreciate Council and the administration trusting us when we put the budget together, understanding we are asking for things. It is really important to us that we have a budget that reflects a loss because it means we've put money in there to give us flexibility to adjust to things. If a program opportunity presents itself we know there is enough budget to do that.

If it happens that expense is what it is and we'll increase the revenue and it will end up moving in the right direction. We have been set up with the support from the administration and council to be flexible throughout the year. Because we pass a budget in January and things change in June and say an opportunity presents itself in August we don't want to be in a situation where in order to do this we have to cut the expense side. Hopefully in return we do what we can to be fiscally responsible and to have good judgement and make good decisions.

The other thing that is nice, and we talked about it before, when we ran into Covid, we have a Rec.Fund balance, and when we started to operate in the black, one of the conversations we had with the administration is we encouraged them to continue to give us a record transfer so that there was still investment in what we did. That money sits in a Rec. Fund balance and then can be used for a project, and has been used for projects, over the years, for projects that support the department's mission.

The Rec. Fund balance at the end of this year is at the end of this year is 1.1 million. I bring that up because we had this conversation, the Mayor said as much at our meeting. Obviously the City finances are getting tight. With some things having a healthy balance, this positions well to deal with tough times, from a financial standpoint from a City's perspective. The Rec. Fund transfer is not as robust as in future years we can use the Rec. Fund balance to offset any difficulties.

It also positions us to think about strategic projects that we might be able to do and use a funding source that is right there and make it a little easier for Council to say yes to a project when they find money in the Rec. Fund. that you have generated and provided over the handful of years. It just puts us in a much better position to make some of those decisions.

It is exciting news and we have projects we have been talking about, the Four Season Shelter, that is not funded currently in the 2025 Capital Budget. There is a note in the capital that they are going to reassess, maybe part way through the year how the City finances are going and look at some of those projects they decided not to fund and maybe funded at some level. That is something we will keep an eye on whether or not Rec. Fund money could be used to help with that project. We will continue to look at private funding and Community Foundation opportunities and fund raising as well. All in all it is really good news.

We feel we are at a place where we have a good grip on how things are moving forward and that we are not going to be surprised by a huge increase in costs or huge losses in revenue. We will not see the swings we saw during covid and the uncertainty that came along with that.

-5-

On a micro level we will start to evaluate, we have had significant cost increases for programming. Camp, Preschool and Before and After Care at 7% and before that it was 21%. We will evaluate on a program by program basis because it is our mission to minimize cost increases especially needs based programs like daycare.

We will take all of this into consideration and come back to you in the fall and talk about the end of the year budget and see what sort of increases we think to move on or reduce. Remember we talked about 3 years of increases. This is the end of the 3 years and I think we got back to pre covid at the end of the 3 years. So we are in a good position on how we want to move forward and feel like it did in 2017 or 2018.

Ann Brennan - The Rec. Fund balance as demonstrated by the end balance.

Mike Price - Correct

Roger Carroll - Where is that money, is it part of the general fund, city's accounting or is it in a separate sort of fund or wherever it is sitting

Mike Price - Probably all in the same bank account but they are tracking it. I can not say for sure how that works but assume it is and track it in different accounts. Probably all live in the same place.

Project Update

Commonwealth

Mike Price - The pond will get additional landscaping and will be installed in 2025.

Work has begun to connect curbs and sidewalks on both ends of Columbia Ave .

Aly and Eric we have reached out to Elena and Brian Kent Jones to schedule a follow up meeting to continue work on the Commonwealth unification design. They said they have been meeting on the connection piece. We will probably hear later next month about setting up a meeting to look at the updated concept design for that.

Jeffrey Park

Mike Price - We have selected a contractor for the tennis court repairs and has been approved by the board of control. We are finalizing the actual contract . The hope is that work will start first thing in the Spring. This involves removal of all the tennis court surface including the tennis court lights and the lights that sit between the tennis court and the Pickleball courts.

We are anticipating that it will not have a significant impact on pickleball access. The hope is we will be up and running by the summer. They will be redoing the electricity. Currently the electric services the tennis courts as well as the restrooms and the cabin. It will position us for if and when we do put lights back in. City Council approved about half of the projected cost for pickleball / tennis court lights. We have been in communication with the community foundation about trying to work toward the other half. Including money the Solomon family that was involved in building the pickleball courts. That is something we will continue to work on.

-6-

Roger Carrioll - What was the total cost?

Mike Price - I think it was around \$180,000.

Ann Brennan - The lights you get are best for the environment for wildlife as well as for people.

Mike Price - The biggest thing is illumination outside of the area you want to light up. We got numbers for the company about what they anticipated would be, based on the design, and the design that they have based on the number of lights the height of the light and the number of lights

Ann Brennan - Will height matter ?

Mike Price - The height will matter but they will be directional, our current lights you get plenty of light well what you need for playing . These will be directional so you won't get much bleeding above the height you need. Obviously the tennis courts need light a little bit taller because the ball goes up higher. From that standpoint we had a conversation about how to try to minimize the light.

If we go back a little you know we did our own internal study about what our lighting system was like currently which is where half the pool is lit up and goes into the meadow which is significant. If what they are telling us is true we will have less than 0.1 or less than 1 just outside the playing surface . It will be a drastic improvement from what we are dealing with now. I have talked to different groups that see no issue with it to those who have concerns with it . I know this light is better than what we have now. Both from light pollution and from a green perspective since it will use a lot less energy than the current lighting .

Ann Brennan - My only wish was since it's going to be such a huge investment that they just be the best lights possible for both the participants and the environment so you know that all those factors need to be considered since it is going to be so much money spent. They are going to last for a while.

Mike Price - We will continue with what was approved in terms of the operational time which is less than it was with the tennis courts lights that people have. It was 10:00 p.m. and we will move it to 9:00 p.m. The length the lights will be on will be less.

Mike Price - We need to reconvene the Jeffrey Preservation and Enhancement Team to review and update Woodland Management Plan. We will be working with Charlie on the updated plan and then get the group together to review. We never finalized it. We gave our first bit of input but we need to bring adjustments based on that input back.

Mike Price - A design is underway for improvement to the Pool parking lot, this is in accordance with the Jeffrey Mansion Enhancement/ Preservation plan. The pool parking lot will have a complete different look. We are going through design right now with EP Ferris Engineering

-7-

The hope is to include this work in the 2025 City Street Project. It's going to create in the middle, a little green area to help with storm management. There will be more pedestrian along the north side, so if you get out of your car you can walk not necessary in the parking lot with the cars but as you make your way up path to the pool aesthetically it will be an improvement. We will move our refuse collection to the creek side, the west side will likely move the trash receptacles between the parking lot and Clifton Ave and also provide more screening. We then have this natural resource that is Alum Creek and creating a better interface.

Mike Price - The Jeffrey Park Playground has been put on the back burner. We hope to begin work toward this in early 2025. Including working with the firm OHM who is the group that worked with the Preservation group to start a design for a new playground. It is likely partially funded and might need a fundraiser as well. I think we are funded at \$250,000.

One of the things which is a big ticket item is the surface of the playground. If it's mulch it is a lot less or whether it is porta play which has a lot of benefits. Arguably a lot of drawbacks in terms of aesthetics from a natural perspective.

Our preschoolers playing there bringing all the mud and mulch back into the building and mulch also takes a lot of ongoing maintenance. You have to till it up and make sure you have the right depth and there is a lot of stuff you have to do with it. Whereas the porta play would be expensive but create a lot less ongoing maintenance. So those are some of the ticket items that might drive that one way or another in terms of how much funding we would have for the project.

Mike Price - Bike racks will be installed in the Winter/Spring 2025.

The lighting along the asphalt path that travels for the Mansion down to the parking lot, will be installed in the Spring 2025. That is the low level that sits down.

Eric Acton - Where is the path and where are you putting bike racks going.

Mike Price - It is the asphalt path on the south side of the Mansion that connects you from the building to the tennis court parking lot. We are going to put lighting there so you can see. The reason it was built that way was because when we expanded the Mansion we knew we were going to have to push parking to the tennis court parking area for evening events. Right now it is dark.

We are adding bike racks on the south parking lots adjacent to the building that wall that curves out that is adjacent to the building. You probably saw the concrete pad that was put in down along the tennis court down by the swing set.

Eight to ten bike spots down low and five to six near Mansion.

Mike Price - We had a board walk that needed repair then a tree came down on it about two weeks ago. We are working with the insurance company now about what is covered. We have to get a quote from a contractor to do it.

-8-

Schneider Park

Mike Price - We are still working with a potential contractor to finalize this project . We are having some internal debate if we should build a new facility or try to build restrooms into the existing building there and what would be more cost effective. That is something we continue to work on.

Skate Park

Mike Price - We are under contract for the construction of the skate park with Hunger. They have started work with CD's for the project. I hope to get a timeline for project completion in the next week or so.

There are still a couple of approvals we have to go through BZA or ARB. It creates another public opportunity to provide feedback, especially residents in the area.

Bridge Across Alum Creek

Mike Price - This project is part of "Years of the Park" We had a meeting with Columbus this week to continue discussions. I expect the install to happen in 2025.

Roger Carroll - Where will it be?

Mike Price - It will be about half way between the sledding hill at Aster and Livingston Ave. It's going to be right by the Skate Park, almost across the path from the Skate Park.

Park Sinage

Mike Price - The specs for the signs have been released to Columbus to begin fabricating them, if they haven't started already. Again hopefully in early 2025 we will install a sign package.

The AED Machines will begin getting installed this month. With a test install happening very soon. We ordered a housing unit for the AED. We need it because it's outside and needs some temperature control and it needs to have some communication with an emergency when it needs to be used. The first one has been purchased. The service department is scheduled to be installing that one on a pole on Main Street by the Library. If that all goes smooth then we will purchase another five or six housing units and AED's and those will go in various places including our parks. One at Commonwealth, Schneider and Jeffrey Park so the public will have access to AED's. We will communicate locations. The City has worked really hard to continue to try to train individuals. There are opportunities I think monthly for training for the general public to come in to get trained on how to use the AED. Looking for it to move along in early Spring 2025.

Roger Carroll - The field conditions at Schneider held up well this year ?

Mike Price - Yes . There is maintenance that will have to go into it and we have been talking to Field Source the contractor for our field maintenance. If you asked Brian from Field Source the Commonwealth Fields are in better condition and there are still things he wants to do at Schneider to improve the surface but overall it is good.

-9-

Old Business

Mike Price - Just a quick update on the Senior Center. The Community Builders TCB go in front of ARB tomorrow to submit for the Casady Ave and Livingston Ave locations. We met with the Community Builders and have been open to talking about ideas and concerns and ideas for the Senior Center.

The biggest issue that continues to be brought up is parking. This building has its issues. One of the greatest accesses of this current building is the amount of parking, which is very unique to our community. You are not going to find any better parking in this community. Dealing with a senior population having accessible parking to the facility is important. We had a lot of conversations with them and they have made changes to their design to accommodate as much parking as possible. Kristen has worked closely with them as well as with the senior group to provide input. The Community Builders, what they proposed, well it's not like the parking isn't perfect, and it is not as much as we have now it is a significant improvement from their last iteration on this.

It will still be some of the best parking in terms of our community relative to the amount of space that we have. The square footage will be roughly twice what we have here right now. We will have two rooms so we have the ability to provide different things at different times. ARB is tomorrow and BZAP January 23.

Kristen Senior Department Director will be attending the BZAP meeting to provide any information they might need. We will see where it goes from there.

We do have in the budget money to rent a temporary space in the fourth quarter which is a timeline we were given. We will keep our eyes open for places to rent.

Roger Carroll - The Senior Center, in the new building, is that given to the City for free.

Mike Price - As I understand it the CIC will still own it, it is an arm of the City. They will give us a shell and we will have to build out. The space will be ours and it comes back to the CIC, it has control over it. We will have to develop it. I think it costs the City opportunity costs,

Ann Brennan - Did they increase the parking? I just didn't think sufficient, based on the fewer and fewer spaces will this be enough.

Mike Price - Yes. And senior feedback has been positive. It's hard when you are used to something and it is less than you feel it isn't as good but it is still significant. It is frankly better parking than we have adjacent to Jeffrey Mansion.

Ann Brennan - This lot is full.

Natalie Mullin - When they go on trips and also have classes in session the lot is full.

Mike Price - There will also be some changes to the curb cuts which will provide parking.

-10-

The other benefit to address parking, is there will be additional square footage and more accessibility. We will have an accessible building which we do not have now.

I don't want to speak for Krisren but I feel like she feels like her constituents seem to be supportive of the current design of the new building.

Tyler Stanley - Is there any outreach or partnership attempts with Blue Spot as far as if they are not using it during the day for yoga or whatever then we know it's like a trip day for seniors maybe figure out a partnership or something.

Mike Price - We have had conversations, we have not had that conversation with them, but we've communicated from time to time in general because there are times frankly they have an after hours rental and people are parking over here so there is some communication haven't worked out or any sort of formal understanding of what that might look like but yes I know it is owned by the resident so you know for sure and we can reciprocate.

Mike Price - They have come to like parking here and they can go inside if needed, before leaving for a trip. It does create a better environment.

Roger Carroll - Is there any old business anyone wants to bring up? Any questions about Mike's report?

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

Anne Brennan - So moved

Aly DeAngela - Second

All in favor say aye

Roger Carroll - The motion is approved.