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Recreation Board Meeting
June 4, 2025.

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

Joanne Pickrell - So moved.

Ann Brennan - Second

Roger Carroll - All in favor say aye

The motion is approved.

Roger Carroll - Roll Call

Eric Acton - Absent

Ann Brennan - Present

Roger Carroll - Present

Chair

Clare Ceballos - Present

Aly DeAngelo - Present

Joanne Pickrell - Present

School Board

Tyler Stanley - Present

Lori Ann Feibel - City Council Rep.

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

Ann Brennan - So moved

Joanne Pickrell - Second

Roger Carroll - All in favor say aye.

The motion is approved.

Roger Carroll - Before we do the Director's Report I want to thank Tyler, Clare and Ann for coming out to help the Bloomers, appreciate that. I think we did a good job getting things up for the event on Sunday.

Director's Report

Natalie Mullin - Event season has kicked off. We had several things on Memorial Day weekend. The pool opened on May 24th. There was Memorial service on Drexel Circle, as well as Jazz in the Park at Havenwood Park. The food truck festival which had decent turnout and the nicest of days weather wise of the weekend. We canceled the Main Event because of rain, there was a lot of rain.. The Main Event has been scheduled for June 20th. On the same weekend as Jazz In the Park which is June 22. The Fourth of July will be our next event.

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Commonwealth Park Unification Plan

Natalie Mullin - I wanted to know if there was any additional feedback from the last meeting?

Roger Carroll - Did you hear any feedback from the Tree Commission.

Natalie Mullin - She did talk to Mike but he did not share the conversation with me. They are planning on doing a public workshop June 19th. Some of the things we discussed here combined with some of the things talked about in the tree commission and present that one plan to the public at that workshop.

Lori Ann Feibel - And all you have to do is to get into that space on Commonwealth. First of all I can't begin to tell you how beautiful it looks right now. The fields are manicured so professionally and so beautifully. I walk that space everyday, and really to walk that space, you feel the canopy that is there or that could be there. I said to my husband and talked about how magnificent it is, and it would be so easy to make this the gem of our community. Kudos to your department and all the service men and women who are taking care of it. Everything from the flowers on the corners and the watering. It is a huge improvement with the pond. Please share that.

Roger Carroll - Any other Commonwealth Committee meetings taken place.

Aly DeAngelo - No

Pool Opening

Natalie Mullin - It was one of the coldest openings and actually the first week and a half in general into the second weekend.

The weather forced us to reschedule the Volunteer Appreciation Event to Sunday August 24 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Even though it was cold leading into May 23rd we had a little over 1,800 individual memberships for residents. On opening weekend we sold 328 and from there to the second weekend 195 and an additional 299 through today. So we are about 2,700 plus adding on the non-residents memberships. Last summer we were at 3,800. We are about 700 away. Last year was our highest year in a long time. We have seen an up tick the last couple of days so I think it is back on everybody's mind as the weather gets warmer.

Jeffrey Summer Camp

Natalie Mullin - JSC got off to a good start. Katie and her staff did a great job getting the counselors trained. They go through extensive training weekend. Anyone who misses has another training weekend offered. The staff is very well put together. Drop off in the morning, if any of you had to do that, it can be a little backed up at times but takes about a week to get through that and the staff does an amazing job.

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And it got warm just in time for camp. Luke and Campbell are the directors of Camp Park and Woods. Both run the After Care Program through the school year. Angela Budeneck oversees Play Camp as well as being the Jeffrey Mansion Preschool Director. The leadership team is strong and they have done a good job in hiring some assistant directors to help support them so they can keep the planning up through the summer.

We have 573 individual registrants and in 2024 we had 535. The weekly average in Playcamp is 59 and in 2024 it was 56. In Camp Woods the weekly average is 119 and in 2024 it was 114. In Camp Park weekly average is 136 and in 2024 it was 130. The weekly total average is 314 and in 2024 it was 300.

I want to recognize Emily Sweet since she has taken upon herself to add for kids entering 5th and 6th grade , who are also combined with kids entering 3rd and 4th. She has set additional time to break away from that group on mini field trips. They are doing things like going to the library once a week starting next week where they have separate programs going on , she has set up. They will go to Main Street and walk with different groups and get some lunch. They are doing different things to keep the kids happy, She has started that program and has gotten good feedback

Tennis and Pickleball

Natalie Mullin - The resurfacing has been pushed back to mid July. Demo is scheduled the week of July 21 and resurfacing will be the week of July 28 and painting and finishing the week of August 1. From the start of the demo it is a 2 month process. As it relates to the curing that needs to happen. The lights are coming out. The Pickleball courts will not be affected

Lights

Natalie Mullin - We are getting the RFP together for the lighting project, actually it is out. The deadline to get proposals in is June 13 and we hope to award by June 27. The thought is this will be a Fall project. It will probably be after resurfacing or shortly thereafter. So they will get everything resurfaced, they will have all the lights already out then they will run electric and be ready to go. They will be outside the facility versus the inside so they will not affect any kind of play.

Pump House Park

Natalie Mullin - Pump House Park is the field directly across the street from Kroger. We tried to do some soccer practices but it was difficult because it is right next to the street. It is sometimes difficult to get there. We have not done a lot of programming there. We have a 25 year lease with the city of Columbus Utilities for use of Pump House Park with a 2 to 5 year additional roll on. We have always taken care of it as it relates to mowing it, we just haven't done much programming there. Bexley Youth Football has been looking for a permanent home. They have been at the schools and there has been a bit of wear and tear on the fields as it relates to Montrose and Maryland. They want to make Pump House Park their home practice facility. We are trying to help get an agreement with Life Church for them to be able to park there and walk to the field versus walking in from Main Street. We are helping them get that set up.

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We will still help maintain the field. At the start of each season we will paint lines and then it will be up to them to maintain the painting of the lines.

Roger Carroll - Is it possible to, or maybe it is not safe enough, to park in the parking lot across the street from the Rusty Bucket.

Natalie Mullin - That is the one where, then, they can walk along Main Street. I don't think you can park there, I think you have to be permitted. I think they are Capital lots. But the concern is having kids walking close to Main Street right there, it can be a little risky. But hopefully it will work out with Life Church based on what their schedule is. Because it will be a lot easier for them to walk. Actually the bike path actually runs right there.

Roger Carroll - Do you know what the time table is for to build the bridge over Alum Creek connecting Schneider Park from the bike path?

Natalie Mullin - I haven't talked to Mike recently about that but I think the last time we spoke he was still working with Columbus on some permitting issues. He has somewhat taken the lead on that but I think it isn't quite there yet.

Roger Carroll - Is the Dog Park being used much?

Natalie Mullin - I do think it gets used and the Police Department schedules some events there. Franklin County Animal Shelter sometimes reaches out about partnering with us so I have connected them with the PD to do that. I do think people are aware of it but it doesn't hurt to remind everyone we do have it.

Roger Carroll - Does anyone else have any business.

Tyler Stanley - Yes going back to Jeffrey Summer Camp real quick. I am not sure what this would look like, but I thought it might be worth exploring for the parents if there is any way to opt in to an optional directory or maybe it could be facilitated through the Procure App. We have a 4 year and 6 year old, it's largely friends but it's kind of a black box. For us we see the first name of kids and that is pretty right but we have no idea who the last name of parents is. I understand you got to be private. There are people who want to protect their privacy but if there was a way to optionally opt into something. I think it could be helpful for play dates to help those first couple weeks of camp go smoother.

Natalie Mullin - Sure that is a great idea. I believe we do that with Pre-school, You just have to approve that you want your name on this list. I don't think it would be different like putting a caller out putting your information in. So I can bring that up to Katie.

Roger Carroll - That is great.

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

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Ann Brennan - So moved.

Tyler Stanley - Second

Roger Carroll - All in favor say aye.

The motion is approved.