

Recreation Board Meeting
September 3, 2025.

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

Joanne Pickrell - So moved

Tyler Stanley - Second

All in favor say aye - The motion is approved.

Roll Call

Eric Acton - Present

Ann Brennan - Absent

Roger Carroll Chair - Present

Clare Ceballos - Absent

Aly DeAngelo - Absent

Joanne Pickrell - School Board - Present

Tyler Stanley - Present

Lori Ann Feibel - City Council - Absent

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

Joanne Pickrell - So moved

Tyler Stanley - Second

Roger Carroll - All in favor say aye.

The motion is approved.

David H. Madison Community Pool - End of Year Report

Natalie Mullin - We had free admission on Monday and we had Paws In The Pool yesterday.

Roger Carroll - It made it on the NBC channel news

Natalie Mullin - We had about a hundred plus between both sessions.

Natalie Mullin - We ended our nineteen season. We continue to do the individual membership structure. People enjoy that and allows them to add who they want for the season and it is reasonable if they figure how much they want to spend on daily admission. It is a good deal.

It is the nineteenth season and we continue to put money back into the pool for capital projects and or for just repair and maintenance that just came up that was unexpected. We had to replace a pump that was about \$6,000.00. We had money set aside in the budget as it relates to repair and maintenance and machinery. We did use all that was budgeted this year.

An overview of the budget the revenue is about the same, a little over. My estimates for August might be just a touch on the high side depending how it came through My Rec versus how we got it posted. We do not have all the final posts in the city budget because there are some credit cards that we will not post until September for August. I went on based on what we had in our system.

We still had a general fund transfer of \$125,000. Our expenses were up a little. We had some capital items about \$40,000. That is including things that we might still do with this year's money. If you take that out we actually were in the positive \$25,000. But knowing we are going to have those capital improvements continually does take us into the negative.

Roger Carroll - Is the general fund transfer has been happening for every year for way back when.

Natalie Mullin - We just recently started that.

Mike Price - I think we started that when we went to the new membership model. So it's only been a couple years.

Roger Carroll - So before the new membership model there wasn't a need for the capital transfer?

Natalie Mullin - There wasn't and we started probably in the past five years we came close to breaking even before we had a lot of more capital projects. Once that started happening in the last five years we started doing some hefty capital improvements which ate into the budget a little.

Mike Price - We were hoovering around breaking even. Then going into covid and coming out costs went up with personal costs and obviously went into pool management company. But we had a substantial enough pool fund balance that even in a year maybe we were dipping into or slightly in the red the pool fund was covering it and we didn't need any influx from the general fund. So that is more recent.

Natalie Mullin - Next is the pool attendance membership report. I do not have a daily admission for September. We are a little bit lower on average this year at 319 daily average, last year it was 363. I think the weather we had early in the season made those numbers dip a little. The total membership count is exactly the same as last year 3,815. We increased the non-resident memberships. We scholarships 90 individuals this year; we had 74 last year. The 14 day pass fluctuates year to year, it depends if people want to purchase them for guests coming in.

Mike Price - We are going to have some conversation on scholarship, in general, not specifically to the pool but in general. We have had a pretty significant uptick in scholarship needs as an overall department. We want to have some discussion about what those numbers look like this year and what our goals will be with the scholarship and how we want to address the shortfall , if you will, from the scholarship standpoint.

Natalie Mullin - Our Swim Lesson program had just a few more participants from last year and we offered the same program as we did last year. We had two 3 week sessions and a Saturday morning 6 week session. We had good numbers with that.

We had teen nights. It was supposed to be the last day of school but it was also a Main event night. We chose to push it back a week and I think we just lost kids because it was the first day of summer and people may have been out of town. Last year we were about 220 and this year about 100 less.

Preschool splash we had 52 registered.

We had the Synchronized swim league again. Their numbers dropped a little but we also changed the time for it because it was conflicting with the swim lesson program. We still had 9 participants. It was a good program.

We had 109 registered for Paws In The Pool Swim.

Swim Team numbers increased a little this year. There is a new Swim Team board President this year and there was a new coach. Nick Davis is the coach Adrian Jet is the swim board president. It is a 7 week program and they still practice from 7:00 to 9:00 in the morning. We take 25% off the top of what they bring in and from their 75% they bring in we take program expenses out. We pay the coaches then they pay league fees and their champs fees.

As far as rentals this year, we had a few more after hour rentals this year. One was a school event and one was a Fourth of July Parade winner were both a no charge event . The rest were revenue generating for us.

Mike Price - For the first time this year we had Bexley Celebrations and Events committee presented awards. We were trying to encourage more community floats. So we gave out prizes. Montrose Elementary won and got an after hours pool party which included Rubino's Pizza. Second place got a B Pack and pizza. We continue to encourage the community to get involved in Fourth of July, specifically the parade and try to improve the floats. Montrose, as they always do, did a great job.

Natalie Mullin - The revenue for Concessions is just a guesstimate of potentially being around the same. We are still in contract with them, if they are still open. if they go over \$100,000 we would then get 15%. Last year they were just under \$100,000 so it stayed at 12%.

Memberships were in the ball park as last year. We did have an increase in scholarships a little as well.

Daily Admission was down and again I think it had something to do with the weather being such a roller coaster.

The Swim Team was in the same ball park as last year.

Swim Lessons were up just a little.

We ended up with more sponsor revenue. We needed more sponsors for the Birthday Tent and I put a post out asking for sponsors and we ended up with what sponsors we needed. All of our sponsorship openings were filled. Events and Program Rentals were up. We increased the price

for renting the Birthday Tent. \$150.00 for a resident and \$200.00 for a non-resident. That may be the reason for the increase.

Natalie Mullin - As it relates to expenses, these expenses are just through August. I guesstimate what we are going to have through the end of December. Which is that total of \$39,700. The full capital is another \$18,000 is the combination of some pool light replacement, electrical repairs and we want to replace some of the toilets or stalls. We found one of the stalls cracked this year so we had to replace that and they found some others that were cracked and need repair. They gave us a quote for that. We have not done much with the restrooms so if we have it in the budget I would like to try to take care of that.

Salary and Wage does include a portion of my salary for overseeing the pool.

We did paint the pool floor and that was \$26,000 for this year. We had the sand filter media replacement which was \$17,000 and that was a carry over from 2024. In the south pump house there are sand filters that are huge. There are 2 sitting on top of each other. Two years ago, Swim Safe recommended it to us, as part of their facility reporting, that they be replaced. The sand has been in there since the pool was built. Over time the filtration will become limited because of how old the sand is. That can cause issues for clarity in the water. We contracted with them to get that sand media replaced and conditions have been much better this year.

Some repairs and improvements we had this year, as I mentioned there was a wading pool geyser pump replacement. The electrical repairs, actually, we didn't get it back up and running because the pump installed was newer. The electrical wattage that we have could not support the new pump. So we are looking at electrical improvements in that pump house. Those are just the little jets in the front of the wading pool, they were not working the last half of the season. Capital improvements we are looking at a new data system. We need to revisit the pool leak. We tried to address it in May. The leak company that said there was a leak. We ripped up the concrete but none was found, we tested the piping, so as a result we had to get that filled back up. The staff stayed on top of it if the water went down, we had to stay on top of it and filling as needed. There is still a leak somewhere and we hope to work with the company again and figure this out in the off season.

I believe we have another rotation of pool chairs.

Overall the budget we are in the same space as we were last year. Still having repair and maintenance surprises as well as some planned capital improvements that we are going to look at to make sure we are keeping the pool up to standards as it relates to being accessible and usable for the patrons.

Eric Acton - How did it go with the managers this year?

Natalie Mullin - We had 3 new managers, Steve, Brandon, he works for the schools. He was great and knew a lot of the kids and the community and we enjoyed having him.

Elle Goldson, was a head guard the previous year, took on assistant roles. We actually started with another manager and I think just her work load with other jobs she had going on it became too much so they had to hire a new person a quarter of the way into the season, Reagan, and she was a good fit. Having 3 new managers is an adjustment and was a learning curve as it related to that but I thought they all picked it up well and did a good job.

Rodger Carrol - Seems like there is no problem with the splash pad this year?

Natalie Mullin - No problems with the Splash Pad!! And it is now open. It occasionally has a problem with the debris from the trees, it gets clogged. It's a maintenance issue. Those are just daily things we have to stay on top of. It is open till September 30th weather permitting, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Rodger Carroll - Schneider Park's splash pad also works?

Mike Price - We had a slow start but I think we addressed those issues.

Just so the board is aware. City Council and the Mayor over the last 3 to 4 years have been putting capital money away for a future replacement of the pool. I am not saying that like that is happening soon. Just so you are aware there has been some foresight from the administration to prepare for ten, fifteen, twenty years from now a replacement of a pool some money is set aside. When we talk about the pool fund balance, generally speaking it's not being viewed as a big chunk of capital to replace a pool, it's more of an operational fund. It's good that the administration is making sure we are in a position to replace some of these facilities as needed.

Director's Report

Commonwealth Unification

Mike Price - Regarding the Commonwealth unification Eric and Aly will be working with the administration as well as a couple of tree commission members to finalize the tree portion as it relates to the Unification Plan. Just to get everyone on the same page. We met with the design team Bryan Kent Jones, Elena, we had a conversion around what is the most recent iteration with the existing park trees. What the vision is moving forward. The most recent iteration consisted of keeping the existing street trees and adding more trees along the edges of those. That was somewhat contrary to the conversation we had here as a board. I asked from a design perspective what you think is the best design or trying to work within the context of the existing trees and trying to maintain the trees.

The design team felt like they had gotten to the point where they actually think they like that design better, that was what was driving their design perspective.

I know we focused on maintaining the best product as opposed to only focusing on maintaining the existing trees if we don't think it is the right way to go.

We want to continue to work through that.

The trees they looked at adding is supposed to give a feel of being less intentional. The design they are looking at all the additional trees are on the same row so it does split the difference in terms of design. We will have a meeting just focused on that. We have had more conversations looking at the details of what materials are being used and where things are laying out.

Hope is the sub group is working on hashing through the tree plan and then we will have the unification committee back together to look at the overall plan to look at the recommendation coming out of that committee.

From a process standpoint it will ultimately come before the board for a decision and recommendation from both the committee and the tree commission.

It will be the board's decision as it is a park no longer a street.

Roger Carroll - When you met, was there any discussion about what you are going to do on the row of the trees that are on the east part. If you are coming from Broad Street on the right there is a big gap. There must have been trees that were cut down. Any discussion of what they plan to put there?

Mike Price - It wasn't necessary to replace any of the gaps. Just to put additional trees on the perimeter of that line.

Roger Carroll - On the west side there is a full line. On the east side in the middle there is a gap. They are just going to leave it like that.

Mike Price - I don't recall any specifics. The design we were looking at indicated which was existing and which were new and I can't remember if they put a new tree in between. My guess is if they would have it would be the same species that was there now. They would not have planted a different tree. To be honest I can't remember.

Mike Price - I do know we want to move this forward and I hope it is in front of the board before the end of the year. So we could go out to bid and do some of this work over the winter, some of the hardscape over the winter. That may put us in the position to do some of the landscape work at the start of the Spring.

Tennis Court /Pickleball Courts

Mike Price - They started to put the first paint coat down for the tennis courts. They will do some fence work tomorrow. They hope to get the second coat on Friday, and put the lines down on Saturday. With the goal to be operational at the start of next week. We need that for programming. We have a lot of programming going on between tennis and pickleball. Trying to find time has been challenging. Thanks to Kevin and Daniel in our office for trying to make all this work.

We had conversations about trying to get the pickleball courts done this season. It doesn't look like we will be able to. We may be able to do it at the end of our pickleball programmed scheduled events which is late October. The feedback from Total Tennis was with leaves falling and temperatures not being consistent above a certain level they don't want to do it that late in the season. So we are talking about instead of redoing the pickleball courts just carrying that

over in the spring sometime , maybe into May. We are working with them on our schedule and put a break in so hopefully that can get finished during our scheduled break.

Tyler Stanley - Is it just repainting ?

Mike Price - Yes, just a repaint. We are not milling or taking the asphalt up, both aesthetically and from a play standpoint. There is sand in the paint and that sand has been worn down and has lost some of the grip. In terms of play it is good to have a little more grip on the ground.

AEP is ready to disconnect our existing lights. A new service has been set up on the south side of the tennis courts which ultimately will service the new pickleball and tennis courts lights. When we lose that power we will lose power to our restroom and park cabin as well as the emergency phone and AD machine. We are talking about keeping the restrooms open since there is enough light to be usable.

Midcity Electric is doing the pickleball lights. They will put the order in for the lights this week. They will lay footers and put conduit in. Once the conduit is run they will be able to reconnect to the other spaces. We will have power restored before the new lights are up. Five to seven weeks is the lead time on getting the lights.

Skatepark Project

Mike Price - We expect a date shortly about a mobilization date. There was a slight delay since we had to work through some engineering of fill material. It is a foam that you spray and it hardens up and is a fill material. We were researching if it was the right thing. They decided not to use the foam. They are going with a better approach that is more traditional.

I hope to have a schedule next week and then plan a ribbon cutting. This was a big project and we hope to be skating in the Spring.

Schneider Bridge

Mike Price - The project is going out to bid with the deadline of October 15th to have the bid submitted. We will know if we have a bid for the pedestrian bridge at Schneider Park.

Community Events

Mike Price - I want to thank Natalie for taking the lead on Splish Splash Dash Triathlon. Also a big thank you to the 80 plus volunteers. Special shout to the Crouch Acton and the Cross Country team. We also got support from the boys and girls soccer teams, We had just over 350 registered

We did our first Adaptive Course for kids with special needs. This is something we want to expand on. Natalie Kevin and some others in the office researched on the best way to do it. That it is done in a way it is safe, sensitive and supportive.

Rodger Carroll - How many participants?

Mike Price - We had two. We didn't do a lot of promoting it to the greater Columbus area since we were just "dipping our toe into it" we wanted to make sure we were doing it the correct way. We felt it was successful and it is something we expand and make sure there are opportunities for kids in the great Columbus area

Maryland Ave. School won the school challenge, which is the highest percentage of their student body participating. They won this eleven times and Cassingham won the other years. Montrose has not won yet.

Summer Fest

Mike Price - It was on Sunday. A shout out to Ron Gould and the maintenance team. Most involved worked a 15 hour day. Starting at 8:00 am, closing off Drexel Ave, putting up a stage and tent, they finished up around midnight. Thank you to Emily Perfect for her planning and organization. The weather was perfect. It is the largest event since we have moved it to Main Street. We added an Arts Festival . Thank you to Emily Sweet from our office who worked along with Megan Meyer from City Hall to develop an arts component to it which had 46 arts vendors located along Main Street. That addition worked well. It was packed. The Mayor's cookout sold 700 units. The vendors were happy. It was a huge success. We will review and probably make some changes to it. In general of the Brew Fest and Arts Festival and Block Party activities were a success

Roger Carroll - Have you received the receipts from the Brew Fest yet? How much they are going to be able to donate the charity

Mike Price - We will. I can say I think they did well since they ran out of cups. At some point we will get that information.

Tyler Stanley - I just want to add one thing. It was an amazing event. The only piece of feedback I heard from people is that the pre-sale tickets line was like five times longer than the buy day of. There probably not much we can do on the Brewfest side, but if there is anyway to streamline that just so people aren't like why did I pay ahead to stand in line ? That is what it felt like. Those were some of the things I was hearing. It is a small thing and no one was upset about it. It's just one thing I took away from that.

Mike Price - Brewfest is run by Tim Pitts and his organization. Obviously we support his organization. But I can pass that along.

Upcoming

Main Event

Mike Price - The next Main Event is Friday, September 12th. The last event we are focusing on is food, music and the movie. There will not be a lot of activities and we will not have inflatables.

We have a really good band coming in.

Community Camp Out

Mike Price - Camp Out is at Jeffrey Mansion on September 19th. Since we do not have a burn ban this year we will have camp fires going. We have about five or six spots left at this point. We take care of all the food for dinner and breakfast. Provide entertainment. We also have s'mores. It's an easy camping out experience.

Smoke and Fire

Mike Price - Smoke and Fire is on September 27th at Schneider Park. We have 8 teams entered in the competition and we are trying to get to 10 teams. It costs \$150.00 to enter, this helps to offset costs. The three top teams get a cash prize. We will have music and some other vendors will be there.

Adult Murder Mystery

Mike Price - We made the decision to do the Middle School Halloween event. It has been hugely successful the last 2 years. It will be at Jeffrey Mansion. We will have food, soda and dancing and decorations. We encourage the kids to come in costume.

Adult Murder Mystery

Mike Price - The next night after the Middle School Party we did an Adult Halloween Party. We are going to try something a little different. We are going to have an Adult Murder Mystery. We contracted with a third party vendor to put on a Murder Mystery at Jeffrey Mansion. We will have a limited number of tickets. There will be hors d'oeuvres. There will be a show, a murder mystery, that is an interactive show, with decorations themed. We will be getting information out next week.

Roger Carroll - There is only a limited number of people you can accommodate?

Mike Price - There is. I think the limit will be 100. If we go over they will have to add actors if over 100.

Pool Parking Lot

Mike Price - We are putting the finishing touches on the redo, and this will happen under the street project of the pool parking lot.

This came out of the Jeffrey Park Master plan. The couple things we wanted to address with the pool lot were improving pedestrian access. So in the middle there is an island that has a walkway, so people do not have to walk in the parking lot to get to the pool. Added a walkway on the north side depending on where you get out of your car you can get to a safer pedestrian access. We want to improve the aesthetic. Right now it's just a big thing of asphalt. The middle island will have some plantings in it, that will help with the aesthetics. We also wanted to improve the interaction with the creek at the west end of the pool. Right now there are 5 dumpsters there. There is a great creek on the other side of these dumpsters that no one gets to see. As it relates to elevations it is the closest to creek level at that spot in the entire park except for really far north. There is a great opportunity to really engage with the creek but we have

the dumpsters there. This moves the dumpsters more to the south and open up the view of the creek

The Master Plan also called for improved access into the creek and some overlook stuff. So there is another piece of this that will come of the result of this adjustment to develop some board walks overlooking the creek in that space.

One of the things we wanted to try to do is maximize parking spots. This layout is almost identical to the existing parking lot, there are 84 spots and this is right around that. We made some recent tweaks. You see, angle parking, head in parking would get us more spots, but that would make it more difficult to get in and out of those spots and make it more confusing in terms of traffic flow. This would encourage people to go in a counter clockwise direction. That would be important because if someone goes the wrong direction it can make it difficult.

We abandoned the current exit street cut to maximize spots and expanded the entrance to have in and out at the entrance point under this design

Those are the major points we wanted to accomplish and is in line with the master plan and what we want to do in this space.

It will be funded through the street project. The project is likely to start within the next month.

The goal to have it operational for spring

We are dealing with the impact of losing the lot for programming that happens down there with the shelter. It's not a space we cannot deal without for a little bit.

Eric Acton - Is there a walkway for those parking on the Clifton side?

Mike Price - There is the side walk

Eric Acton - Is that open or is there a fence?

Mike Price - It becomes open as you move to the east.

Eric Acton - where did you put your handicap?

Mike Price - Still on the far right side closest to the pool. It is in the similar location as it is now. It butts up to the side walk so they can go either way, go across, there is a pedestrian path across or they could go to the south and take the side walk up which is accessible then up to the ramp

We are working on camp pick up and drop off. What the impact is there. There is also programming. We have the Jeffrey Woods Festival. We have the Wood Chop Shop. There are different things we do in that lot, not specifically just parking. We will have to continue to work through. We are excited about this improvement. It will be a much more aesthetically pleasing facility and deal with some of the pedestrian issues.

New Business

Tyler Stanley - The Friday before Jeffrey Mansion Preschool started I had a chance to tour. Angela was nice enough to take me through. My son is not quite potty trained, unfortunately his application was denied. We wanted to see it. She was nice enough to give us a tour. It was the first time I was in there for probably 20 plus years. I thought the space looked phenomenal.

Angela was a great ambassador. We met the other staff and they were really great. I just wanted to pass that on and it feels like a cozy nice product and seems well organized.

Old Business

Mike Price - The administration, working with the Mayor and looking at some Codified Ordinance related to the Recreation Board and Park rules and some modernization. There has been some discussion, Rodger has been involved in that, over the last year and a half. We have rules that are outdated, dating back to 1971. There are some simple things we need to address with our park rules. There are things we want to clean up and don't make any sense anymore.

This came up when there was a person in the park today with a metal detector and digging up in the woods and some other things, we are trying to address that. You tell them they cannot be doing that and they ask to show me where it says that in the rules.

We will look at the Codified Ordinance that addresses the Recreation Board, its role. The board will be requested to look at determine what that is going to look like or some ideas we have. Ordinance 282 relates to the Recreation Board rules and 1062 is park rules.

Rodger Carroll - When you get the information can you especially look at the rules part. They are outdated but there are things we probably should be adding that are happening that are probably not addressed and that were not thought of at the time. Not to make it too prescriptive but to make people aware of the do and don'ts.

Mike Price - These are the codified ordinances that are passed by council but they do not have the end all for rules. It can be written in a way the Recreation Board can also create policy and rules that are not necessarily specifically codified. So there will be some language in there that makes sure that we as a board can react quicker than City Council. We can make sure there is some flexibility that allows the board to be able to speak on some of those things quicker.

Mike Price: Just one more new business. We are starting budget discussions. We should be receiving our budget sheets from the auditors department next week. They want a raw draft by the end of the month. There will be many changes between now and December when it usually passes. As board members if there's anything you want us to think about, any programming, facility projects, feel free to reach out.

I do expect that our operational budget will not be flat. We are looking at a 3% increase. And I expect the Capital budget to be more robust this year than last year. We will keep an eye on some projects that we have interest in and move forward from the recreation side of the capital budget. Another thing if I could go back, because we forgot to bring this up from the pool report.

We are at the end of our 5 year contract for pool management. Our current understanding, and we are talking to our legal team, is that we would have to go out to bid for pool management after five years. There is some discussion about if it would be viewed as a professional contract for professional services in which case there are different laws related to how often you have to

bid. The point is we are going to go through a process. Natalie and I will take the lead on it . Natalie manages the pool day to day. We will review what our best options going forward and that will include reviewing whether we can move forward with Swim Safe if we wanted to or go back out to bid for the service and reviewing weather we want to take a look at taking management back underneath the department and not have a third party. We are in the very early stages of that. We are looking at all those options.

We will come back to the board with recommendations. We will work with the administration with the budget impact of that.

Natalie, do you have anything to add to that?

Natalie Mullin- Only that we are talking about going cashless at the pool. We are going to review as it relates to this year and having cash at the pool

Roger Carroll - Did many people pay with cash.

Natalie Mullin - It seems like one fourth paid with cash.

Other pools are doing it.

Tyler Stanley - Are you talking admissions ?

Natalie Mullin - Just admissions as it relates to the front desk having to deal with cash flow.

Mike Price - The auditor department would love to see that. The more cash you handle there is more chance for issues.

Mike Price - We are getting into discussion about families that do not have access to credit cards or the banking systems.

Roger Carroll - May I have a motion to adjourn

Joanne Pickrell - So moved

Tyler Stamley - Second

Roger Carroll - All in favor say aye.

Motion is approved.