

Recreation Board Minutes
November 5, 2025.

Aly DeAngelo - I will call the meeting to order.

Attendance

Rodger Carroll - Absent
Eric Action - Present
Ann Brennan - Absent
Clare Ceballos - Present
Aly DeAngelo - Present
Joanne Pickrell - Present
(School Bd. Rep.)
Tyler Stanley - Present

LoriAnn Feibel - City Council Rep.

Aly DeAngelo - We will post pond approval of the October minutes until the next meeting.

Director's Report

Budget Update

Mike Price - I want to welcome back Lori Ann who has been in Israel for the last week and a half. I am glad everyone is back safe and it was an important trip. Thank you for all the work that you do and your husband and all the others did on that trip.

The budget was introduced to City Council at the last meeting. It was the first official introduction of the budget, it was the first read.

I am presenting at the November 18th budget meeting, which theoretically will be the third reading of the budget. Oftentimes it gets tabled after the third reading to consider any changes. Historically it is unlikely that it passes after that meeting. But hopefully soon thereafter, that is the second week in November. They are set to meet the first week in December and hopefully that is what they are shooting for to pass the budget. Do anticipate some amendments to the budget from this first interaction that went out a couple weeks ago. We will have slight adjustments including some pool numbers that are updated for taking on pool management in house. There are a couple items that we have to tweak from what our original numbers were, as we continue to assess it. Nothing major, just some small changes, including a couple of capital items we are going to try to get into the budget as well. Those might be a couple of adjustments, otherwise I think we are moving forward with where we are. It is likely we will continue to make some adjustments here and there but that is part of the process but nothing significant.

One of the areas we continue to discuss, not so much here, but Ron Gould is retiring next year and is there going to be any impact to how we fill that position? That could be a couple things. That still has not been finalized and that is part of the interaction of the budget also, which is,

are we going to hire someone while he is still working for much of next year to get training? Will there be any structural changes to how we provide park services in general as a result of that? Many things are still being evaluated. That may be the one area where there are bigger changes. I do not know what direction that's necessary to go. I am still meeting with the Mayor regularly and the Service Director and the Recreation staff as well. I do not have answers on that, it is something we continue to evaluate. Currently it is in the budget as basically he is working and will get replaced when he gets replaced and nothing structurally changes, but that could potentially change.

I am happy to answer any questions about the budget.

October Events Recap

Mike Price - It was a busy month for us, but we had a lot of cool fun events. It takes a lot of energy from the staff but there is a lot of enjoyment in these events because of the impact they have on the community.

Harvest Fest On October 10th was an amazing event with beautiful weather. It is a labor of love for the staff and genuinely enjoys it although they are exhausted. We had a couple thousand people roughly in attendance. Everything went well. Hayrides were great. We had many of the same activities and added a balloon artist. Bon fire, magician, enchanted walk, kids songs musician, nature table.

The service department also provides staff and Bexley PD, it is a community effort,

Halloween Patrol had about 150m volunteers on Trick or Treat night on October 30th. Thank you to Daniel Heiser in the office who organizes it and thank you to all the volunteers. If you see a Halloween Patrol volunteer please express your support.

The Middle School Halloween Bash was on Friday, Halloween night or Emily Perfect's birthday. She spent the entire time hanging out with 350 middle schoolers. That was a huge number for us, this is only the third year for us. Last year we had 270 which was a lot more than the first year. We had a lot of conversations about how many are too many middle schoolers. Do you have any suggestions or a guess on that ?

We wanted to get as many kids involved as possible, we don't want to have to turn anyone away, but we also want to make sure it is a safe environment, and a good experience. We pushed the envelope and luckily it was a nice night because a lot of them were outside on the patio, which helped spread the load. 350 middle schoolers had a good time and generally well behaved. It is a great opportunity to bring them all together and to connect with that age group. It is a difficult age group to connect with. We see the value in keeping those relationships and building on those as they become high schoolers and potential staff members. It was a positive event for us and it went well. Thank you to all the staff that worked on the event.

Clare Ceballos - I had a middle schooler that got wait listed and then was able to get in. Thank you for expanding the numbers. That is one of the things I talk about to people in other communities and they are like "There is a Middle School Halloween Party?" That is really cool to have a party for just Middle Schoolers. And they are obviously into it.

Mike Price - Yes . It was noticeable that we had 75 more than before just because it was loud.
Natalie Mullin - Last year with 100 less kids nearly did me in.

Mike Price - The following night November 1 was the Murder Mystery. This is a new approach to Halloween activities on the adult side. The past several years we just did an adult version of the Middle School party with music and the same decorations. This year was a little different . We flipped the building a little and kept some of the same decorations but also changed a lot of stuff. We had about 150 people attend. We felt it was a great number since we did not know what to expect. It was more than we had for the Halloween Bash we had before. We contracted with a company, they brought some actors in and put on "A Murder Mystery At Jeffrey Mansion" The theme was old Hollywood 1939's. Many dressed up and that was cool. People generally got into it. We are in the process of putting out a survey, just to get feedback. Would they like to do something like that again, go back to the old format or maybe do another Murder Mystery somewhere else through the year. It was a cool experience. I think those who attended really enjoyed it. Natalie, do you have anything to add to that?

Natalie - No, I just thought it was a great experience.

Aly DeAngelo - I did talk to Rebecca Reinhardt, the theatre for the district, about kids taking it on. She was into it. Her concerns had to do with alcohol being served.

Clare Ceballos - What was your question ? For kids to participate or put it on?

Mike Price - We had some conversations whether it could morph into a fundraiser for the theater program.

Aly DeAngelo - The alcohol served and just the timing

Mike Price - I think it could be something not for adults but for high school students. Maybe it is a completely different vibe. They put it at a different time of year. It was just an idea because of the theatre piece of it.

Clare Ceballos - What happened to the elaborate decorations you had in the past?

Mike Price - We had a great agreement with a vendor who had access to some amazing pieces and we no longer have that connection. We appreciated it while it lasted.

We are trying to build our own stuff.

Project Update

Skatepark

Mike Price - We hope to have the skate park finished by late December. We are finalizing the landscape plan around. Most of that work will not take place until Spring. We started to interview

potential skate board instructors so we can begin programming around the space. We are learning a lot since this is the first time having a skate park. The project is moving along nicely.

Pickleball Lights

Mike Price - The project is still underway. They bored the conduit for the electric for the lights. There seems to be some delays. I expected the footers for the light poles would be in by now. I am hopeful they will be up and operational by the end of the month.

I want to make the board aware that some of the neighbors have communicated their concerns. We had back and forth communication. I received another email yesterday which expressed concerns. I will stay on top of that. I am in communication with the Mayor about additional steps that we want to take. A lot of it focuses around potential noise from Pickleball. Including current conditions and concerns about current noise as we've talked about this whole process, frankly back to 2019 when the Pickleball Courts were built. We talked about noise and we didn't get many complaints about noise over that time. But it is a concern that is coming up with the installation of the lights.

From a light pollution perspective this will be a much better experience than before, for residents and park users, versus the tennis courts that were up before. These will light up the Pickleball courts and are a different challenge.

We will continue to keep an eye on noise mitigating opportunities. We are already looking at plant material that has been lost, as a buffer. We will always look at ways to mitigate the noise, A policy is in place 8:00 to 9:00 o'clock per the board's ordinance or resolution.

As with the Skate Park and Pickleball the will be an enforcement piece that will need to be a part of that. We are not staffed from 8:00 to 9:00 o'clock at night. That will fall on Bexley PD, especially outside hours to support. We can obviously control the lights. The lights won't be on outside the designated times. There are times in the Summer where it is light after 9:00 o'clock pm and light before 8:00 am. That will be an enforcement issue that we will continue to work through with the police if it becomes a problem.

So we are on the same page, the lights are going up and we can make adjustments to the policy to the extent the board wants to as there is more discussion. I feel strongly that with the light pollution we are in a better space. We need to mitigate noise as best we can. We will continue to take feedback from the neighbors and take into consideration as we continue to manage the space.

Does anyone have any questions and I am happy to send the email to you.

Pool Parking Lot

Mike Price - The pool parking lot renovation has made a lot of strides over the month. You can now see the new layout. They closed the exit and expanded the entrance so it is now a two way entrance exit location. That gave us some more parking back. You can now see the island they are putting in. It will help with beautification and also the walkway. So we have improved pedestrian access from the lot which makes it safer leading up to the pool. There will be a walkway on the island. There will also be a walkway on the north side of the parking lot which never existed before. Which also gives access to the shelter.

The island adds beautification, there will be plant material planted there as well. There will be better control of drainage. Right now that lot is just sheet drains. In the past the lot would just sheet drain and run to the creek and erode a ditch on its way to the creek. Now it is being caught by drain pipes and sent to the creek under more controlled circumstances. We are also moving the dumpsters on the creek side. They will now be on the south side so we will have better interface with the creek. So that provides, if you remember the master plan provides more interface with the creek especially right there. All in line with the master plan. This is an exciting improvement.

Clare Ceballos - We are actually adding spots?

Mike Price - It will be around net neutral. And we also cut back the amount of asphalt.

Holiday Schedule

Mike Price - The Pancake Breakfast is Saturday, December 6th from 8:30 - 11:00 a.m. Look for an email from me asking Rec. Board and City Council members volunteer to serve food at the pancake breakfast. We partner with the Historical Society. This is the second year where people can buy tickets in advance on our website. It worked out well and it helps to give us a decent idea what numbers look like and helps with the food order. It helps tighten up the food supplies. On December Sunday, December 7th at 5:00 p.m. we will have the Tree Lighting. We received a \$10,000 grant from the Bexley Community Foundation for beautification of the tree. This means more lights and more ornaments. Ron is taking the lead and will be one of his final gifts to the city which is decorating the tree with four times as many lights and two and a half times as many ornaments.

Clare Ceballos - I am also on that grants committee. One thing we talked about, which I am sure you have looked into before putting things up that do not have to be taken down every year. Have you looked at that at all? Is that just so much more expensive?

Like the lights that are taken down right?

Mike Price - Those will be taken down. I don't know how healthy it is for the tree

Clare Ceballos - you cannot leave them on.

Mike Price - No, the way you decorate it is different. The ones on Main Street are tight around the trees as they are growing. There is also a concern how long those lights last if you leave them out. Our intent is to put them up and take them down each year.

Clare Ceballos - Is that a lot of man power?

Mike Price - We are going to learn a little bit. We are putting more up

Clare Ceballos - This came from the grants committee

Mike Price - We are committed to doing it

Clare Ceballos - You will be putting them up and taking them down every year.

Mike Price - It might be odd to keep the ornaments up year round. I would be a little concerned about how long they could stay out.

Mike Price - We will learn a lot this first year how difficult it is

We appreciate the support.

Aly DeAngelo - I need a motion to go into Executive Session.

223.03 (f) To consider security arrangements where disclosure of the matters discussed might reveal information that could be used for the purpose of committing, or avoiding prosecution for, a violation of the law.

And 223.03(a) To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee or official.

Joanne Pickrell - So moved

Clare Cebellos - Second

All in favor - Aye

Aly DeAngelo - May I have a motion to come out of Executive Session

Joanne Pickrell - So moved

Tyler Stanley - Second

All in favor - Aye

New Business

Mike Price - I want to announce that our very own Coach Eric Acton, Jeff Landis and the Bexley High School Cross Country Teams have been selected for the 2025 Barb Triffon Volunteer of the Year Award for their service to the SS&D Youth Triathlon.

Aly DeAngelo - Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Joanne Pickrell - So moved

Clare Cebellos - Second

All in favor say aye - the motion is approved