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Recreation Board Minutes  
August 6, 2025.

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

Ann Brennan - So moved

Tyler Stanley - Second

All in favor say aye

Roll Call

Eric Acton - Present

Ann Brennan - Present

Roger Carroll - Chair - Present

Aly DeAngelo - Present

Joanne Pickrell - School Bd - Present

Tyler Stanley - Present

Lori An Feibel - City Council

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

Aly DeAngelo - So moved

Clare Cedillos - Second

All in favor say aye

## **Director's Report**

### **Commonwealth Unification**

Mike Price - There was a public workshop held on July 16th. There was a solid turnout.

Roger Carroll - Were any members of the committee able to attend this ?

Miike Price - No.

Mike Price - The feedback in general was positive. The feedback on the design they showed was generally positive. The design that went before them, and as Elena described to me, they did not spend time on the landscape. There were some differing opinions on the tree layout for the site. It was more about the concept of the circular sitting areas. The document presented to the public meeting focused on adding trees to give a more random feel to the tree placement.

Pause In recording.

Mike Price - They have set aside money for this project. Before it was a street beautification project. There is money available to do this project as is, but that is a question I need to run by the Mayor. I say that only given, as part of the discussion, we move from a street beautification to a unification. The price tag was that street beautification was a more cost

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effective approach . Not to mention that wasn't the sole driver, I think we like the idea just as we close the park and as we work through design. We kept going back to street unification. We did all these things with the design of the street to make it more pedestrian friendly and we were doing all these things that went back to that. But the cost was part of that. I can't say specifically how much the Mayor has to open , it's all part of the years of the park program. I feel we are in a good place to attack this project soon or later.

Tyler Stanley - When we go back to the picture it says reinforce existing street trees. Is the plan to leave street trees then?

Mike Price - Right now the way that is, to my understanding , is that the street trees stay but we add trees so that it feels more wooded but not like Jeffrey Woods. But more trees to break up the idea that these are aligned

Tyler Stanley - Will that still require falls around the trees. I know we talked before in the past because it was a little bit lower. Would we have to build some structure around that part?

Michael Price - I think we will learn more when they get to that sort of detail where they've done elevations and they checked all that stuff and they feel like it is needed . If you are there now you see it is a little bit lower still where the street was. As we go through the development of this, my guess there's going to be more fill brought back in. The question is if the extra trapped, if that is going to be impactful on the extra trees. I know that is a concern that they had in terms of building that up. Not sure if you have to create some sort of retaining wall go around the trees so that you didn't have the soil coming all the way up the trunk of the trees.

Rodger Carroll - Does the committee have a scheduled meeting coming up or nothing has been scheduled yet.

Mike Price - The only thing I know that is scheduled is a follow up meeting with Elena and and the design firm Bryan Kent Jones where they are going to start talking about the landscape features associated with the project without being a more fine plan on landscape and be more involved in that hardscape design. But there isn't another fall meeting at this time.

### **Tennis / Pickleball Court**

Mike Price - The tennis court has been ripped up and we are putting a new surface down. His project has been a while in the making. The first day they took the asphalt off we had 2 inches of rain in a two hour period. The problem with that is it causes a stability issue with the [soil](#). It delayed the project. It meant when they did proof rolls to make sure the sub grade is strong enough to handle the asphalt, it wasn't, they had to add some material back in to strengthen the subgrade. So the cost went up and the project got delayed as a result. The intent was to have it done last Tuesday. And when I say done just the asphalt portion of the project. Now it will be done this Friday. So a week and a half behind. The next step is to let the asphalt cure for two to three weeks and then Total Tennis will come in and put the posts in and paint.

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From a budget standpoint we are still in a good position even though there is a \$7,000.00 additional cost. We have a 10% contingency in the project. So we are in an OK position. The other issue they ran into was anticipating 2 to 3 inches of asphalt and they ended up using 5 to 6 inches of additional asphalt.

The Pickleball Courts are in year 6 and there is and the grit in the paint begins to wear down. About 6 to 8 years you need to replace it. So the Pickleball courts are coming upon that. We are trying to evaluate within the budget whether we can get to the courts since they will be on site. We would fill any cracks that happened in the asphalt, there is not much.

Taking a look at the budget I think we are able to pull that off. We will make a decision in the next week or so whether we have that. We just have to figure out all our transport costs. Update the netting and perhaps some shading.

### **Tennis / Pickleball Lights Update**

We have selected a contractor to replace the tennis courts and pickleball lights, and we are going to recommend him to the board of control lawyer. The next meeting is August 12 at the next council meeting.

We will make the recommendation that we put lights on the Tennis and Pickleball courts. The one we are selecting is within our budget. I will remind you half of the money is from the City Capital Fund coming out of the Recreation Fund and the other half is from the Community Foundation. Assuming the board of control approves, then we will move forward fairly quickly. The focus of the selection of a contractor, the number one focus, was minimal light bleed and pole height. The lighting system is the traditional, eight lights on all the perimeter

### **Skate Park Project**

Mike Price - They are finishing up CD's

The contractors came to us regarding the amount of fill dirt they have to have for that location. Not going to be the easiest thing to put in there. There is a lot of top soil. They want more stable soil. Bringing that field into that location is not the easiest thing on volume and at least not to damage the existing structure here. One of the things the contractor came to us with is to change the fill material to a geofoam rather than use traditional back fill.

I have been working with the City Engineer, Dave Koch, to evaluate the foam and its use on this project.

They gave me references, one in New York City. It was built in 2010. Their feedback has been good and has held up very well.

Ann Brennan - Did NYC have a good safety record with the material.

Mike Price - It doesn't provide a soft landing. It's a subgrade material, so you don't see it. It's not like it provides a softer landing.

We hope to give a recommendation by the end of the week and Hunger can continue to move on the CD. We still plan construction for Fall and hope to be operational this Spring.

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### **Schneider Park Bridge**

Mike Price - The Schneider Park Bridge is in the same area as the Skate Park. This fall the City should be out to bid on the Bridge. We have had a decent amount of time coordinating how this bridge will be constructed while the Skate Park is in place. The Skate Park will either be finished or under construction. Engineers are working on the bridge to make sure the bridge can be installed without doing any damage to the Skate Park itself. So we continue to move forward and I expect to have a contract by the Fall. We are getting to move forward and I hope we go out to bid very shortly.

### **Community Events**

Mike Price - We had another wonderful July Fourth. Thanks to volunteers, parks / service department, Bexley Police, and the Bexley Rec. staff involved in pulling off another wonderful July Fourth.

Thanks to Rush Whitt and the Paramount Church for all the amazing volunteers who took the lead on the evening activities. And Mike Weinstock for providing the music.

We had just under 500 runners at the John Barr 5K Run. A huge thank you to Natalie for taking the lead on this event.

### **Bexley Celebrations and Events**

Mike Price - Unfortunately the July Jazz in the Park event got rained out. We have another one scheduled for two weeks.

August is very busy. The Main Event is Friday, August 15. Splish Splash and Dash is August 16. Jazz in the Park is August 17. Summerfest (Labor Day Block Party ) is Sunday August 31. The biggest change this year is we added an Arts Fest. with vendors. The event is 3:00 - 8:00 p.m.

### **Pump House Park Lease**

Mike Price - We thought we had a finalized contract, and we actually did. We signed it and sent it back. But then Columbus Utility needed additional approval. They assured us that they will continue to move forward but it might take a bit longer. In the meantime we can use it as we have been.

The Youth Football Program located there has gone very well . They were looking for a field. We met with them and offered Pump House Park. With football the ball isn't completely out of control (like in a soccer game ). They have a lined field here which they did not have at other fields. Now the field is being used by our community and is able to access a nice facility. Hugh, thank you to Life Church for access to the parking lot.

### **Senior Center**

Mike Price - TCB who are the Community Builders who are the contractor for the Cassady site and the Livingston Ave site are moving forward on this project. There was a lot of legal stuff that

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challenged it. When they finally got the approval from a legal stand point it had been so long they were reassessing project costs , trying to assess if it was a viable project. There was a time period where we thought we needed to move in September. Then there was a chance we would not be out at all if they didn't move forward. Now they are moving forward, and it looks like it will be pushed back from September to the first of the year, 2026. The Senior Center is operating out of that space until January 2026. We will continue to work on temporary space.

Aly DeAngelo - Has there been an alternative site identified.

Mike Price - Yes alternative sites have been identified. We have had some negotiation.

Ann Brennan - Will all programming be able to take place at the temporary site? For instance the exercise classes?

Mike Price - Yes our goal is to provide the same level of programming that we do now and to provide everything we currently do at the senior center

Aly DeAngelo- They still plan to move the Senior Center back to Cassady location ?

Mike Price - Yes still the plan.

## **Pool**

Mike Price - It has been a solid season at the pool. Thank you Natalie for your oversight. And thank you to Swim Safe for their pool management. The staffing levels have been really good . There have been a lot of positives coming out of it. There is always something we can improve on. Generally it's been good.

It is the fifth summer for Swim Safe Pool Management. Our legal counsel said that every five years we have to go out to bid. We will have a conversation over the next month about what our plan is . We will make sure of our other options as to bidding or not bidding . We are going to evaluate them and frankly whether we want a third party, whether we want to go out to bid or whether we want to entertain other management options. We are going to look at all of that and then bring back the board for some discussion on that probably at the September meeting if not in October because it will be in the city budget process depending on the five year contract.

Hers

Roger Carroll - How many people have been using the added morning lap swim.

Natalie Mullin - When I asked there were two gentlemen that were consistently using it. There may have been few using it occasionally as well.

Ann Brennan - People really like the after work hours.

Natalie Mullin - Just a reminder, when school is in session, I will be letting all members know we are closed on Monday and Wednesdays, but on Monday and Wednesdays for 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. we will be open for lap swimming only. It's also on the website.

Mike Price - This Sunday the pool will host the Montrose float committee and their families. This year the Montrose float won the July Fourth Parade prize. This is the first time this was done in several years. Thank you to Rubino's for providing pizza. The party is from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

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Then on Sunday August 24 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. we have our Volunteer Appreciation make up. It was scheduled for the beginning of pool season but it was too cold out. The Mayor and I will be cooking.

### **Camp**

Mike Price - This is the last week of camp. The talent show is tomorrow night. We will be awarding our Ryan Solomon scholarship from the Ryan Solomon Scholarship Fund to one of our staff members. We will also highlight the incredible generosity of the Ryan Solomon Fund to our scholarship program which historically has been over \$20,000 a year in scholarships to our campers. The talent show will follow and put a closure to camp. Huge thank you to all the staff. They did a tremendous job, especially through the heat. They did some cool programs changes they did over the last couple years.

Lori Ann Feibel - I was sitting at Chipotle yesterday at lunch time. I got to witness two of the counselors in action. And witnessed some of the things that the kids learned just being allowed to go once a week out to lunch on Main Street. The Chipotle grill was down, it took me an hour to get my son's meal, it was ridiculous. But you know these kids were problem solving. Lily Vincent and Sasha Parker were the counselors. Kind, sweet, gentle and patient with these kids. I just think the camp is so special. As a person who had kids in the camp, who had a counselor at the camp and to see them these kids have an opportunity to assert themselves, talk to adults politely and to see them doing it and to see the counselors doing it with them I just think that they are not only occupied. From the time I was in fourth grade I was in charge of my brother all summer long all by myself at home. It's not a good scene. I said to him what did I teach you? I don't even know. Anyway it was really impressive. So kudos for whoever is deciding that that's something they should do and kudos to those two counselors.

Natalie Mullin- Enmily Sweet put that program together.

### **Splish, Splash and Dash**

Mike Price - It is next Saturday. Currently we have 316 registered and we will have 350 in 2024. One of the new additions we have this year, thanks to Natalie for taking the lead on this and Kevin is also involved. We are doing an adaptive course. So kids with developmental issues, physical issues we will have a course that is a little smaller and stays longer. It stays on the grounds and doesn't go onto the street. It is designed to be more accessible than our current course. We are excited about the option.

We are looking for volunteers for Splish, Splash, Dash

### **Mid-Year Budget Report**

Mike Price - More analysis is needed, especially in a line item review. Overall the Rec. budget Revenue is \$1,566,000 in 2024 it was \$1,406,000 up \$160,000 in revenue  
Expenditures were \$1,518,000 in 2024 it was \$1,418,000 up \$100,000  
Net is up \$60,000

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Roger Carroll - Was the Rec. Department involved in the Police event yesterday?

Mike Price - Minimally. I would shout out to Emily Perfect, she works half time at city hall and half time with the Rec. She was involved but the P.D. was the lead and did a great job.

Roger Carroll - There was really nice reporting on the event on Channel 4.

Mike Price - Clayton Adams, with the police department takes the lead and does a great job with that. He is a community liaison officer. It was a nice location, next to the pond.

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

Ann Brennan - So moved

Aly DeAngelo - Second

Roger Carroll - All in favor

The motion is approved