

**Sandusky Recreation Division  
Recreation Board Meeting Minutes  
February 11, 2023**

- 1. Call to Order at 4:00 pm at the City Commission Chambers at 240 Columbus Avenue.**
  - a. Welcome and Roll Call: Tom Sharrah, Jason Werling, Sherrie Waddington, Chris Mehling, Annette Solet, Barb Rose, Bernie Seiler, Linda Carroll, Dave Waddington, Devon Johnson, Tondra Frisby
  - b. Absent: Larry Wren (excused), Shawn Coakley (excused),
  - c. Guest:
  - d. Approval of January's Minutes. Motioned: Bernie Seiler, Seconded by Devon Johnson, motion carried.
- 2. Old Business/Updates.**
  - a. Civista Ice Rink**
    - i. Jason reported on Ice the Civista Ice Rink. We originally planned on closing for the season the weekend of Martin Luther King but ran a weekend after that. We ran into staffing issues and some weather challenges. We did flood the ice rink at Wightman-Wieber Park and have that ready to go. Unfortunately, Mother Nature isn't cooperating. We do have a liner down and we will have to wait and see if it freezes. We may still do some popup dates on the Pier.
    - ii. Annette attached a report for the rink. So far we have brought in \$2,410, 976 skaters, compared to 475 skaters last year. We have had to close 6 days due to high winds and cold weather. Once the trailer gets here we will store the rink and skates in the trailer and the dasher boards at the service center.
    - iii. Bernie asked, do we get comments of how people like it? Annette: we get positive comments on the size of the rink. It definitely is dependent on maintenance. We have our downtown Public Realm staff that clean it with our floor machine and an enhancer that make it more slippery and glide better. Bernie said he stopped down and talked to people and they were happy they could skate, and it is a great setting. Jason said obviously we had a large spike during Winter Wonderland and the New Years Eve fireworks, 62 skaters the night of the fireworks.
    - iv. Tondra reported on Winter Break Camp and Out of School Programming. Parents have been very happy with this programming and the impact it is having on our kids. We have about a00 children registered for our Out of School Programming with about 30-40 attending everyday. Winter Break we have close to 100. NEW PROGRAM ALERT, in partnership with Erie County Health Department and Ohio Guidestone. They are providing a 30 minute program every Thursday called Imagine Discover and Grow. All about mental health and basic hygiene. Parents sign waivers and they are very excited we are offering this piece. Chris reported that this is a direct result of a meeting for our South Side Project. Students asked for it, so we started the process and are moving it along.
    - v. Midtown Supper Club Season V is just shy of 2 weeks away. We would love for the rec board to attend. Tickets are on sale and whole tables are also available. There are seats still available at sponsored tables which would be no cost. We have 29 chefs in training, lead by Chef Brad Kraft and Chef Benny V. Our menu is New Orleans themed. Make is Sew Easy with Stephanie Mayfield-Brown is making the costumes for the night. Curtis Brown is leading a theater production. Shawn Daley is leading a music program. Morgan Johnson is Leading a Dance performance. All while dinner is being served. You don't want to miss this! Doors are at 5:30 and it starts at 6:00pm on Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>, Fat Tuesday.

### **3. New Business**

#### **a. Kalahari OPERA Conference**

- a.** Jason reported that we just wrapped up our annual OPERA Conference at Kalahari. This is a great networking event with parks from across the state. Gives us the chance to find out what other parks are doing across the state.
- b.** Erie Metroparks received a major award for their NOW program. They used a lot of video of programming they we have done with our kids. They received a first place award. They are up for a governor's award and there is a dinner for that. Chris, Annette, and Jason attend all 3 days and one afternoon we brought our Grounds, Greenhouse, and Public Realm staff out. They got to meet with vendors and network. They will have the opportunity to demo equipment and have made some great connections. This will help us for when we need to order new equipment in the future. We were all back to work Wednesday afternoon. There are great seminars and great information to take home with things that we can implement. Jason attended a great workshop on grants some that we may be able to use. Chris gave a shout out to Jason and Annette for having the staff from out new departments come out. He got great feedback from them about being able to attend. Annette attended several operational workshops, one on controlled burns. Just to see if we wanted to implement them on the nature areas for the golf course, but probably wouldn't work for us. She did see a sense of urgency from the Grounds, Greenhouse , and Public Realm staff because they were able to interact with the vendors that they have only met over the phone. This year there were over 600 vendors, and everyone walked away with some great ideas.
- c.** Tondra attended the CADCA conference in Washington DC. This is a youth prevention, mental health conference. The young people who were there brave and courageous. They have a drive to change mental health and their rights. Young people are so empowered and courageous. There were middle school and high school age children. We are hoping that our little humans that we have at Mills will follow that lead and have a voice. Thank you to Erie County Health Department for sponsoring me being able to attend.

#### **b. Put a Lid on It.**

- a.** Annette reported on The Put a Lid on It program. This is sponsored through American Pediatrics. This is our 5<sup>th</sup> year working with them. Annette is a member of the coalition. As a coalition member we can get more helmets. We have had a zoom meeting and there will be a workshop in Columbus. This is to make sure to get bike helmets in the hands of kids. In the past we have used them at Safety Town, and Bike with the Blue. That is bike rides with the police officers. Any child that attended they got a helmet. We have started meeting about Touch a Truck. We are writing a grant to get 600 helmets. That grant is due March 3<sup>rd</sup>. We plan on giving them out at Touch a Truck
- b.** Annette reported that we did just get out Nature Works Grant for ODNR for the cart path at Mills Golf Course. Weather is going to be one of the questionable things on when we are able to get it implemented. We are using some capital dollars along with

the grant to complete this project. Bernie asked what the time frame is for completion. Annette said it all depends on the weather.

- c. Annette reported that we are applying for the Wightman-Wieber grant for safety town as well.
- d. Jason reported that we are applying for a grant through the Wightman-Wieber foundation for a grant for our Movies by the Bay series and a new Movies in the Park. The Movies in the Park would be a couple pop up movies. We have power at Lions Park so maybe take it there in May. Probably start with The Lion King. Our Movies by the Bay series would start Mondays in June and run through Touch a Truck. We will get a schedule out for that.

### c. 2023 Events

- a. Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Jason: This is the fastest event east of the Mississippi River. This is coming up on April 8<sup>th</sup>. We are working with Rotary again and Vacationland Federal Credit Union gave us about 2,000 eggs and decorations and signage and giveaways. Heather Gilchrist reached out to us since Vacationland won't be doing their egg hunt this year. We spend about an hour and a half putting the eggs out and within 5 minutes its over, haha. We are going to work with The Merry Go Round Museum as well to have the Easter Bunny go over there after the hunt and they will have free entry and \$1 rides for kids that day. Tondra asked if there was any power at Foxborough park for Movies. Jason said he could check to see if anyone could provide a generator that we could use. Devon asked if there was enough room there. Tondra said of course. Jason said we are all about using the movie screen at other locations. We will take any volunteers that want help put our Easter Eggs.
- b. We will hold a Shamrock Scramble at Mills Golf Course on March 18<sup>th</sup>. We will get that advertised on facebook. Jason also mentioned that we would want to schedule a Love Where you Live golf course cleanup possibly before the scramble happens.

### OPEN DISCUSSION:

a. Dave Waddington asked about the Pipe Creek Pathway needing re-done. The rowing club is using this now. It needs re-done back to the cells. And when will the ramps be installed. Jason said they are usually installed in early May, late April. Dave also said the entry and surface needs re-done with rocks, etc.

b. Sherry Waddington asked if we put a bid out for the docks? Jason said it is on a 2 year. It is over at the end of 2023 and then we would need to do an RFP. It did work out great this year. We were able to keep them in late for the fall brawl fishing tournament. Sherry: Those guys are awesome down there at the boat ramp, Steve and Tammy.

c. Tondra: Tickets are still available for Midtown Supper Club. Individual tickets are \$30 each or 2 for \$55, and a table of 8 is \$220. All proceeds go to Sandusky Recreation Youth Scholarships. The menu will be: Cheesy biscuits, crab or corn chowder, jambalaya with sausage and a shrimp skewer, and

banana fosters for dessert. It would be great to sell out the event to show support for the youth who have been working very hard! Tickets are available online at [cityofsandusky.com/rec](http://cityofsandusky.com/rec)

4. **Next Meeting Wednesday March 8th at 4:00pm at City Hall, 240 Columbus Ave.**
  - i. Motion to adjourn at 4:33pm by Bernie Seiler and seconded by Barb Rose..