

**Sandusky Recreation Division  
Recreation Board Meeting Minutes  
July 12 , 2023**

1. Call to Order at 4:15pm at the City of Commission Chambers at 240 Columbus Ave.
  - a. Welcome and Roll Call: Tom Sharrah, Sherrie Waddington, Elizabeth Collins-Fiske, Dave Waddington, Bernie Seiler, Barb Rose, Tondra Frisby, Annette Solet, Chris Mehling, Linda Carroll, Jason Werling, Larry Wren
  - b. Absent: Devon Johnson, Shawn Coakley, (Excused)
  - c. Approval of June's minutes: Motion, Bernie Seiler, Seconded by Shawn Coakley, accepted with corrections.

**Guest Speaker:** Dan Rambler, Sandusky City schools Superintendent. Dan gave an update on the school's aquatic center. Dan Wanted to let everyone know where the pool project is to date. They have been trying to be very transparent. The project has taken a number of years. 3 core values for the project, teach kids to swim, have a facility for competition swim programs, and access for the community. Challenges have been when they sent out the project to be bid in May there were no bids. The budget that they expected the project to be at was about 20-30% below what they predicted. There is 8.5 million set aside for this project. So how do we get back on budget? About 30% of the original pool will be expanded into the parking lot, estimated. Decided to hire a construction manager at risk. Selected Mosser Construction to be the manager at risk. Benefits us because won't have to go through the traditional bid process, and now will have another entity to estimate costs and lead the work. We are shooting for the pool to be completed in Nov. of 2024. The project will start in August 2023. There will be changes to the traffic patterns. October we will see more heavy equipment coming in. The challenges as a school district will be the swim team will lose their location for a year. Margaretta is a potential option for us to use. Questions: Dave Waddington, what % of time will residents have use, and glad there will be third grade teaching kids to swim. Dan: We want the younger kids to have exposure to water and also teach. The % of time for residents is very important. They have been visiting other sites. Took a years calendar and evaluated what times the pool would be available. There is more than 50% when the community would have use. And it isn't just all the "bad" times. Sherrie; Just the community will have time to go swimming, they wont have to be part of a group? Dan: Yes, there is a community access point that restricts them from entering the school. Pools are expensive to operate. This is not just for the school district. This is a partnership and a great opportunity for the community to use a pool. Tom: Will there be weekends for Evenings? Dan; yes, we have built that into our potential schedule. There can be building use agreements as well. Dick Brady; Speaking for our commission broadly we are very excited for this project. We found a way to partner with the schools in so many ways to find economic development. This project is not that. This pool could be a wonderful recreation opportunity for our community. Applaud the fact that the schools have stuck with it.

## 2. Old Business

### Summer Break Camp

Tondra gave an update on Summer Break Camp. We have had on average 70 kids attend. We are in week 5. We gave a couple of come back kids volunteering. The fire department has been great coming

out and sprinkling the kids at Mills and at Foxborough. The Salvation Army is doing really well feeding the kids and have great independent contracts coming in and doing creative activities with the kids.

### **Community Collaboration day**

Community Collaboration day is a little different this year. We are collaborating with Father's Heart Church. We are connecting Mills and the church. At Mills we will have the inflatable obstacle course from Army National Guard, the Health Dept. and Grams Goodies. The connection will be the resource tables. All the water activities will be at Father's Heart Church. Tondra, Nequan, and Paster Tony will be in the dunk tank. We would love for rec board members to attend.

### **Mills Creek Golf Course**

Annette gave an update on Mills Creek Golf Course. There were packets handed out with the YTD revenue. Numbers were compared. We have been trending up every month. We are seeing an increase in youth golfers. We are partnering with Perkins Twp. On July 25<sup>th</sup> to do a youth program. Ryan Fry who is the rec coordinator is providing prizes and giveaways. We do not charge for Sandusky youth to golf. The city championship is weekend. Annette also gave an update on the pollinator plots. This will reduce our mowing and weeding of 6 acres. Erie Soil and Water is working on some funds for the restoration. Cart path update: We are gathering road grindings. We anticipate it being done by this fall. That will be paid for from funds from Dept. of National Resources nature works and our capital budget. Bernie: The big thing is it is a 9 hole facility that is easy to golf and it is great shape.

### **Touch a Truck**

Annette gave update on Touch a truck. It is Tuesday August 1<sup>st</sup>. Annette, Jared Oliver, and Mario D'Amico will be on the radio promoting it. We will be giving out 125 bike helmets. This is the 9<sup>th</sup> year. Sponsorships, we have just under \$5,000. Gentleman's club and Leading Ladies will be volunteering.

### **Safety Town**

Annette gave a report on Safety town. It is Aug 7-11<sup>th</sup>. At Mills School. We will be partnering with Sandusky Schools for bussing and water safety. The Power Squadron will be doing boat safety. Angie in code will be talking about healthy homes. And of course, our typical railroad safety, signs, and biking. We anticipate about 65 kids. It is limited to just kindergarten children. Thank you to Wightman Wieber for funding our Safety Town. They have committed to an initial 5 years with potential for more. Graduation is 10am on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Rec Center update**

Chris: At the June 26<sup>th</sup> commission meeting the commission voted to move forward with looking at the American Crayon site at the preferred site for our rec center. We are in the process of seeing if this site will work for our rec center. The next city commission meeting they will be voting to place a levy on our Nov.7th ballot for operating and maintain the rec center. It is a 1.26 millage with is roughly \$44 per \$100,000 property value. Sherrie: have we decided what the rec center will have. Chris: it all depends

on the levy passing. Sherrie: We need gym space, and maybe an outdoor pool. Chris; looking into outdoor water amenities.

### **3. New Business**

Jason gave a general update. Since we have last met we have had a 5k, 1Llange trust event, 1 party at the pier concert, and 3 movies by the bay. Last Monday we showed Beethoven with a St. Benard in attendance. The fire department will be at the next one with Planes, Trains and Automobiles. We are in Ironman week. The course is pretty much the same. They are still looking for volunteers. There are still 2 bike aid locations in Sandusky County that need filled. We will be putting out more information this week about traffic impacts. We are very appreciative at how the city has embraced this event. Linda; soooo many athletes were commenting last year about how they loved the city and couldn't wait to come back.

#### **Parks and Rec Division update**

Jason: Greenhouse, they are finishing up the last couple of mounds. There is a transit mound, ironman, lake Erie, Masonic, and a couple of monsters. We have a great crew over at the greenhouse. Facility Maintenance, we have Scott James and Scott Romick and Kevin Fitz and Eric Kromer for our Public Realm Dept. Annette: Grounds, Brian Camp was just made foreman, Ed Alexander and Tim Hinton. We are still waiting on our mower and tractor. We are working on the lips at the ball fields this fall. Shawn; what is the time frame of the re-seeding project at Amvets. Chris, this fall.

### **4. Open Discussion**

Tim Schwanger; Here on behalf of what he is hearing in the community and Facebook. What he is hearing is the process is like no other process we have had in this community. With Lions park and Jackson Street Pier there were several meetings with the community with input. This time is felt like it was more of a closed process with private meetings with stakeholders. The community is a little disappointed with the process. Concern number 2 is putting the rec center at American Crayon when it couldn't be used for the justice center. Also, an outdoor pool was number 2 on the survey but it seems to be ignored. If it is going to be a splash center it better be a big one. The school's pool is great but an outdoor pool has a family experience. Where you can take a picnic basket and take your family. This year the rec department decided to only do one park for the summer program. All the years gone by we have moved around to different parks. It is discriminatory to only use one park. I know the jobs Ohio grant has been applied for. Elisabeth: I remember Tondra saying the attendance is down. That kids don't attend. Tim: Would like there to be a splash pad at Foxborough Park if that park continues.

Jason; We are having the fire dept coming to sprinkle the kids. Foxborough park was the most attended park. Jason also emailed Tim with what we are all doing at Mills. It is one central area where we can have 70 kids with lunch and several activities. We don't want to have staff sitting in the parks with kids not showing up. Foxborough was the most attended park.

Chris: There will be community meetings scheduled. There will be community input. We needed to get buy in from the stakeholders, the schools, students. That was just to start the process. We still have to do some Geotech process to check the American Crayon site. There are some things our consulting firm is looking at with the noise and the safety of the location.

- 5. Next Meeting will be Wednesday August 16, at 4:15pm at City Hall, 240 Columbus Ave.**  
Motion to adjourn at 5:07pm by Elisabeth Collins-Fiske, and seconded by Shawn Coakley