

**Sandusky Recreation Division
Recreation Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 13, 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, Bernie Seiler, Barb Rose, Dave Waddington, Jason Werling, Linda Carroll, Chris Mehling, Larry Wren, Shawn Coakley, Annette Solet
 - b. Absent: Tondra Frisby, (Excused)
 - c. Approval of October's minutes: Motion, Bernie Seiler, Seconded by Elizabeth Collins-Fiske

Guest:

1. Old Business

Mills Creek Golf Course

Annette gave a report on the golf course revenue. We are down in pass play but up in admissions, which is really good, because that means we are getting more people play the course, that are paying each time. We have been opening the course on days that the weather is nice. We will do one last push next week for gift cards for Christmas. Bernie asked how the condition of the carts is. Annette said condition of our carts is really good. We still have 12 leased. We do still have all our old carts as well if needed.

The tree removal is still to be completed by the end of the year. We have done an assessment on the trees on the course and Forestry has recommended that the one on #1 and the tree on #9 by the sledding hill come down. Dave asked where we are at on the bridge on #5. Annette reported that we are working with Josh Snyder in engineering on that. Bre from Erie Soil and Water is recommending that we relocate the bridge due the location being in the flow of the creek. They prefer it to be a dry creek bed when the restoration happens. Bernie asked if it was the high water that took the bridge out. It was a combination of the water and the trees that forced it.

Jason recognized the job that Annette has done at the golf course over the last 3 to 4 years. There has been increases in revenue each year. Great job Annette. Bernie added that anyone who plays the course knows that it is very well taken care of.

Rec Center Update

Chris gave an update on the Rec Center levy. The election has officially been certified. It passed by 52 votes. We are now in the process in putting together the next steps. Bernie asked if there was projected date. Chris said there is no projected date.

Fall Programming

Jason gave an update on fall out of school at Mills. We have 30-45 kids a day for our out of school program. We can use more volunteers for homework help. This is from 3:30-4:30 mon-thurs.

We also have Commit to Fit on Thursday nights. Open Way Yoga has their studio in operation, with Tai Chi and Yoga.

Civista Bank Ice Rink

Jason gave an update on the Civista Bank Ice Rink. It has been open since the middle of November. It was crazy busy for Winter Wonderland. We actually ran out of skates on Friday night. We had a huge increase over last year. Linda gave an update on the skating during Winter Wonderland and the season. Bernie commented that it is a great situation with allowing it to operate without it being freezing outside since it is synthetic. Shawn asked how long it will stay open. Jason said we will re-evaluate after the holiday.

Event Updates

Winter Wonderland was very successful. We had great weather. Thank you to Shores & Islands, Destination Sandusky, Rock & Roll Express, and North Coast Young Professionals for their partnerships. There were a lot of people downtown. We also had a shopping experience going on as well that brought people down.

2. New Business

Winter Break Camp

Jason shared that we have opened up winter break camp to registration. It will be Dec. 27th and 28th, and Jan. 3rd and 4th. From 10-2pm. We are looking for volunteers. We will be putting out gymnastics, greenhouse yoga, and commit to fit digitally as well.

Parks Facilities

Annette reported that our grounds guys are taking advantage of the warm weather and doing some ballpark maintenance. Annette is meeting with all the priority use agreement people for our fields. We are going to host a ball field grooming class in the spring as well.

Jason reported that our greenhouse and grounds crew worked together in getting all the holiday lights up. The lighting ceremony went off without any problems this year.

Jason reported that commission approved James Kennedy of TowBoat Marine to operate the Paper District Marina for another 3 years and Steve Hammer to operate the Shelby Street Boat Launch for another 3 years.

Events

Jason reported that he is working on coordinating all the fishing tournaments. He is hoping to have a list for next Rec Board meeting.

We have also entered into an agreement with Ironman to extend for another 3 years after the original agreement ends next year. We will have that race until 2027 at least. Sandusky Ironman race was named the best Ironman 70.3 distance race in the United States by triathlon.com. Shawn asked if registration was open. Jason said, yes, it is open.

Mylander Pavilion

Linda reported that we will be going in front of commission at the January 8th meeting to increase the pavilion rates by another \$100. The pavilion has become very popular and is very busy. We are seeing additional costs in our insurance fees. Also, our Public Realm employees are spending a lot of their time there cleaning and preparing it for rentals. Shawn asked if it's like when you check into a hotel with a credit card and if we then charge it when they are finished.

Linda reported that we do charge a \$250 refundable security deposit. It is all handled through our accounts payable department.

Meeting Dates

Jason asked for everyone's approval of the planned 2024 meeting dates. Everyone agreed the dates look good. Shawn asked if it is ever possible to have meetings in the parks and different locations. Jason explained that we may have to keep them at city hall so that they are recorded, but he will check with our law director.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Barb would like to see some of the board members come out and check the gymnastics programs. Jason asked if the competitive team has she ever done a demonstration. We would love to have a demonstration at Mills.

Shawn asked Chris when he expected to have the next steps list for the rec center. Chris said probably not until after the holidays.

Next Meeting Wednesday January 10, at 4:15pm at City Hall, 240 Columbus Ave.

- i. Motion to adjourn at 4:27 pm by Bernie Seiler and seconded by Shawn Coakley