

**Sandusky Recreation Division
Recreation Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 10, 2024**

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, Barb Rose, Larry Wren, Kay Kay Pou, Jason Werling, Linda Carroll, Chris Mehling, Annette Solet
 - b. An announcement was made that Dr. Richard Koonce is now serving on Rec Board as our commission liaison. Thank you to Dave Waddington for his years of service to Rec Board.
 - c. Absent: Tondra Frisby, (Excused), Shawn Coakley, (Excused) Dr. Richard Koonce
 - d. Approval of December minutes: Motion, Elizabeth Collins-Fiske and seconded by Barb Rose

Guests: Matt Westerhold, Danielle Murray

1. Old Business

Mills Creek Golf Course

Annette gave a final report on the golf course revenue. There was an increase in a little over \$20,000 from 2023. Once we have all our 2023 invoices in, we will have a total of how we did. We did lose 6 days of revenue due to the flooding in August. We have already sold 47 passes for 2024.

4 trees have been removed by Hinman tree service. The vandalism on #2 seems to be coming back and will be in good shape. Mike Pisarsky has been approved for spraying again for 2024.

Tom asked about the bridge replacement. Annette explained that she has a meeting with Bre Hohman and Josh Snyder about moving forward. The funds have been secured by Bre for the H2O grant.

Winter Programming

Jason gave an update on Winter Break Camp and Out of School at Mills. Thank you to Berardis, Dominoes, Chic-Fila, and Pizza House East for feeding our kids during Winter Break Camp.

Commit To Fit with Brigette started last night. She had 8 participants. This is a program we do on Tuesdays nights. It is an 8 week program. Open Way Yoga is getting into their winter programming with their space upstairs at Mills. Greenhouse Yoga has also started on Wednesdays.

Civista Bank Ice Rink

The Civista Bank Ice Rink is open through this Sunday weather permitting. It may open back up weather permitting. We are looking to get the Wightman-Wieber park filled to see if we can get it frozen.

2. New Business

2024 Events

Jason gave an update on 2024 Events.

The Wightman Wieber Dinner Dance is January 20th at the Erie County Fairgrounds.

The Easter Egg Hunt is March 30th at 10am, in Washington Park.

The Total Eclipse of SUNdusky is April 3-8th. We are working with Nick Anderson who is with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History to have an educational presentation at Cedar Point Sports Force. April 4th will be a JEEPclipse on The Jackson Street Pier. April 5th we will have a movie on the pier. Then April 6-8th we will have music, a market in the pavilion, and also show another movie. There won't be another one until 2099. [Shores and Islands.com/eclipse](http://ShoresandIslands.com/eclipse) is the landing page for all things eclipse.

Parks Facilities

Annette gave an update on the grounds department. We are working on controlling the grasses at Lions Park. We did also do some upgrades to some of the ball fields. Annette is meeting with all the priority use agreement members so that we are all on the same page. There will be a softball tournament the first week in June.

Jason explained that we are going to have an RFP for the concessions at Dorn. Our facility department just finished up painting the bathrooms at Lions Park. The bathrooms at Jackson Street Pier are closed until Friday due to painting. The greenhouse staff will start getting all the decorations down in Washington Park

Jason expressed that we still need homework help at Out of School at Mills. We just require a volunteer application and a quick background check

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Matt Westerhold asked if there was anything to report about the Rec Center. Chris explained there is nothing new since our last meeting. We are still putting the steps together for the process internally. Matt; When you say "we" what do you mean? Is there a group? Chris; There is a group that worked internally with our consultant firm. Matt; No decisions have been made on a design group? Chris; There is an RFQ going out for the next steps in the process. We have encouraged Brandstetter Carroll to apply. Matt; When do you think the community will know the next steps. Chris; The community will know the next steps by approximately March. Matt; The levy money is being collected now? Chris; yes. Matt; Is there any use for that money this year? Chris; We are still in the process talking about the money that is collected this year. That money is strictly for the operations of the facility. Matt; The constructions costs are covered by the Cedar Point Tax? Chris; that is correct. Matt; That has been collected since 2021? Jason, I am not clear which year. Matt; The original suggestion was \$15 million dollars to build the center and it was \$750,000 a year from Cedar Point taxes, and we are already 2 years in. I wonder if the city has considered that the cost is probably going to be more. You've already collected \$1.5 million against the amount due. So, there could be more money? Chris; More money towards the total project? The budget is the \$750,000. Matt; But can be subject to change. Chris; That is an MOU between us and Cedar Point. Matt; But is a tax though? Chris; Correct for 20 years. Matt; But the tax isn't just for 20 years? The tax doesn't expire, or does it? Chris; You are correct, the tax will continue but the amount that was allocated towards the rec center from the bed tax is for the next 20 years. Matt; I guess my question is, is there a steering committee, is this board in charge of the rec center development, is the city commission in charge, who is in charge? Chris; So when you say design do you mean the building? Matt; The design, the building, the amenities, programs. And who is going to run it? The other question I have is for taxpayers. The taxpayers approved a levy that generates \$675,000 a year. I guess my question is do you know will the city maintain the current rec dept. budget and the \$675,000 in addition and for the operating for the rec center. So whatever the city has budgeted for the last 3 years for the current rec center, will that remain the same? Chris; Meaning what programming and services that are offered? Matt; So

the city has a recreation department budget that is separate from the levy. So what I want to make sure it that the levy that the people have approved won't diminish the budget of the rec department. Chris; That levy was approved for the operating of the rec center once its built? Matt; So it's your understanding that the rec department budget won't be reduced? Jason; That is my understanding, from the wording in the levy that was past, it was for the rec center operating. We even had Brandstetter Carroll estimate what it would take to operate it and that is where the amount came from. People have asked us about microphones and people not being able to be heard. Matt; The bottom line is that the thing I really want to know is who is making decisions about the rec center. Chris; So the company that we will hire for the design, they will present it to us and then we will present it to commission. As far as services that will be provided out of there, that is going to be through the recreation staff, members here, and what we have obtained in surveys. Matt; I guess what I'm asking is if this group gets questions about the rec center, who do they talk too? Chris; Jason and I. Matt; So this is the steering committee, the development of the rec center happens here? Jason: Well its happened throughout the year with all the stakeholders meeting we have had throughout. It is past the concept phase. Matt; Who is going to make the design decisions. Chris; commission. Jason; But with input from us. Matt: Has there been any discussions of partnerships in the community? Has there been any discussions of partnering with Firelands Regional Medical Center? There already is a partnership with the schools. Has there been any discussions of a YMCA partnership? You say March. Frankly I am a little disappointed. Because the fact that the city was able to come up with a plan and have money for that plan is amazing! It's a 30 year quest and they did it and the residents did it, and now we are cooling our jets since November? Chris; Well we aren't cooling our jets as much as once we know the design and the size that is going to determine what services can come out of that facility. We will continue to do our grass roots programming, example Barb and her gymnastics she does out at the fairgrounds and our programs at Mills. We've had some places come to us and as if we might be interested in doing partnerships. But that is all part of what we figure out what we are able to provide service wise with the size of the building.

Danielle Murray: Gave a presentation on her Run Scream Run 5k. and Lake Erie Film Commission. She is applying for a grant from Shores and Islands and is requesting a letter of support from the Recreation Board.

Jason; If there is a letter of support it will need to go through the city manager's office. Chris; Do you have a deadline for the letter? Danielle; Feb. 1st.

Next Meeting Wednesday February 14, at 4:15pm at City Hall, 240 Columbus Ave.

- i. Motion to adjourn at 4:34 pm by Barb Rose, Seconded by Elizabeth Collins-Fiske