

**Sandusky Recreation Division
Recreation Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday February 14, 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, Shawn Coakley, Bernie Seiler, Richard Koonce, Tondra Frisby, Jason Werling, Linda Carroll, Chris Mehling, Annette Solet
 - b. Absent:
 - c. Approval of January minutes: Motion, Elizabeth Collins-Fiske and seconded by Bernie Seiler

Guests: Danielle Murray, Commissioner Jeff Krabill

1. Old Business

OPRA CONFERENCE

Jason, Chris, and Annette gave an update on how the OPRA conference at Kalahari went. They all attended 3 days of the conference and attended some great seminars. They also volunteered their time, this way we get a discount in the cost of attendance. There was also a keynote speaker, Conner Fields, and Olympian. Thank you to the City Manager and our Community Development Manager for allowing us to attend.

Mills Creek Golf Course

Annette gave an update on Mills Creek Golf Course. We will open on April 1st, and bring our seasonals back mid-March. We have a lot of projects on our docket. The creek restoration with Erie Soil and Water is moving forward. The project has to be completed by 2025. We are entering into an MOU with Erie Soil and Water. Right now Mills Creek rates at a D- in water quality. Therefore, this is a very important project. If we don't do anything we would lose hole #8. Erie Soil and Water will place the RFP for the design build. There will then be an advisory committee from the city, golf course, and Erie Soil and Water to award the contract.

We also are dealing with the bridge replacement on #5. Josh Snyder is our city liaison for this project.

Mills Rec.

Tondra gave an update on Out of School at Mills. We have had an average of 60 kids. The registration process has changed a bit. Parents sign up their children each month now. We do have some new kids, potentially coming from the center for cultural awareness since they are closed now. Sandusky City Schools are feeding our kids when there is school. However, we struggle on days when there isn't school. Our local restaurants have been so gracious on feeding our kids on these days. Marcos Pizza is a new place that will be feeding our kids for this Spring Break Camp

Spring Break Camp is April 1-4th. The morning of April 3rd the Cleveland Museum of Natural History will be giving an eclipse presentation to the kids. On the last day April 4th, Minority Health Task Force will be doing a fun day for the kids. Shawn asked what the times are for Monday the 19th. Tondra stated 3:30-7pm. Parents got all their kids to Mills on waiver day and MLK day.

Civista Bank Ice Rink

Jason gave an update on the ice rink operations. We have had some bonus days in February and have offered free skates. We may have a couple of extra days, however all weather permitting. Sherrie asked what the turnout was for the free skates. Jason said he didn't have exact numbers. However, when there was an event in the pavilion our attendance for the rink was great.

Rundusky Race Series

Jason gave an update on the RUNdusky Race series. The winners were Jess Safron from Port Clinton and Sandy Bodi from Bayview. They win entries into all the 2024 races. The lineup is set with the 9 events. Blue Streak was not sure if they were doing their 5K. So, Drea's 5k was on the wait list and they took that spot. Humane Society race is Eclipse weekend and they already have double the registrations compared to last year. Thank you to the register for publishing information about the RUNdusky Race series.

Recreation Center

Chris gave an update on the Recreation Center RFQ that is out now for the second phase of building the recreation center. This phase is for the site planning, design, and bidding assistance. Advertising went out Jan. 10th and the 24th. The qualifications are due back Feb. 20th. Then our committee/team will review those qualifications by March 8th. On March 13th the committee will meet and take a look at the scoring and come up with who the top three firms will be. We will notify the teams on the 14th and possibly bring the top ones in for interviews. Then we will present this to commission. Selection of the firm will be by March 25th. From then until April 19th we will work with the firm on the scope of services on what the firm will provide to us. Then we will present to commission on May 13th our recommendation on the firm we would like to bring on board. Shawn Coakley asked what Chris meant by scope of services. Chris said we want them to provide us with exactly what we are looking for in site plan and design. This will then allow us to take a look at what services we will provide. Tondra asked who is on the team that will review the firms. It is Jason Werling, Colleen Gilson, Arin Blair, Aaron Klein, and Chris Mehling. Sherrie Waddington asked if the location is locked in? Chris said, yes, the American Crayon site. Sherrie asked if there was any chance the Rec board could be involved. Chris said once we have firm on board we will involve more of the public and rec board. Commissioner Koonce stated that it was an excellent question. Commission can ask for advisory committees. Since there was only half of the community voting for the rec center this project really needs to have an advisory committee. When we get to the point when we start getting to what programming will be provided it would be good to reach out to groups that we will be partnering with. Whether its Boys and Girls club, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Sandusky City Schools. This will give us some feedback on what we really need. The other thing that Commission Koonce is concerned about is the artist rendering of what the facility can look like. What role did they play? Chris explained that we had an RFQ out for that and went through a very similar process as we are doing now. We hired Brandstetter Carroll to help with site selection and come up with a conceptual design of what it might look like. We were out the high school, Kidsfest, Mills Rec, Rec board, and the Mylander Pavilion, to get feedback. That is how that firm was involved in the first phase of the project. Commission Koonce stated that we need to look ahead to what grants we can apply for, and not just kids but the elderly. Chris stated he would like to catch up with Commissioner Koonce. Sue Daughtery from Serving our Seniors monitored a meeting for us at the Erie County building. We have also had conversations with the Boys and Girls club. Jason stated we did present to the Senior men's organization over at the senior center. Chris said he agreed 100% with commissioner Koonce that we want to continue to cultivate those relationships. Commissioner Koonce said we could collaborate with those groups in mind, so we go in knowing exactly what is being done. That way we have buy in. When we take on a project of this magnitude we need to know, and understand, about the recreation department. Do we know how many people from the recreation department will be in that building and what space will they take up? How many offices will be in the space and how much will that take away from recreation space? Chris said he wanted to point out that we met with the Sandusky City Schools at Mills to discuss collaboration. Jason said he believed that the concept did have designated office space. Tondra and Jason stated they did visit several recreation sites. Chris stated they visited some that were similiar to our community size. Commissioner Koonce asked is the building about 30,000

square feet. Chris said it all depends on where the bids come back at. The details will come as we start the process. Sherrie asked about outside space and a water space for families. Chris said right now we are looking to have a water feature. Will we have an outside walking track? We know there will be a tennis courts. Shawn asked about the timelines and what other part of the time table generically speaking, if commission approves the firm on May 13th, when can we expect to see concrete things happening and when would we have a target completion date. Chris said there is cleanup that has to be done at the site and we will have a better idea when we get the firm chosen. Shawn stated that it is so important with the rising construction costs and timelines are very important to people. Chris committed to making sure he would share any dates that he has.

2. New Business

Touch a Truck

Annette stated that this is the 10th anniversary of Touch a Truck. It will be Tuesday August 6th. They are already working on making this a 10th anniversary event and make it better and larger. Last year we had a great representation from community agencies.

Safety Town

Annette gave an update on Safety Town. It will be August 12-16th. Thank you to the Wightman Wieber charitable foundation. Each year we will receive \$10,000 for Safety Town. The same committee that does Touch a Truck does Safety Town. We will have more information in the future.

Juneteenth

Tondra gave an update on Juneteenth. It will be Wednesday June, 19th. We will kick off with the Lange Trust concert with Forever Motown. We will have Mr. Darnell Weaver and 20 plus actors will be doing a performance on true black history. Sandusky High School Acapella choir will perform. We have the same vendors as last year, and maybe add one. Marcus Harris and Tondra have been working together with providing fireworks. Jim and Dick with the Firelands Adventure tours will be providing tours between 3-5pm with some underground railroad tours.

Midtown Supper Club

Tondra gave an update on Midtown Supper Club will be March 25th. Season 6 will have a starry night theme. Tickets are on sale now. There are 13 chefs in training. Our chefs are Benny V. and Byron McMorris.

Community Collaboration Day

Community Collaboration Day will be August 16th after the Safety Town graduation, from 1-5pm.

Movies by the Bay

Jason gave an update on Movie by the Bay. We are still looking for a title sponsor. The series will start on June 17th with Blank Panther.

Parks and Facilities

Jason gave an update on greenhouse. The staff has been working on cuttings in the greenhouse and planning for Washington Park. Our public Realm crew has been painting bathrooms, inside the Mylander Pavilion, and tearing down the Dorn facility. Annette reported that the 5910, large mower, that we have been waiting on for 3 years is set to

deliver in May. We are very excited about that. Our priority use agreements are our nearing their end. After last year Annette has met with each priority use agreement holder. Hoping to help with their programs running smoother. Annette and Brian Camp, the grounds foreman have met at each location to note what is needed to get everything ready. On Saturday Chris and Annette are meeting with the Amvets board. There is a group out of Castalia who will be running a tournament at Dorn Park on 3 weekends. We will charge them for the use of the fields and for our staffing costs. Sherrie asked who has priority use at Jaycee? The usage is as follows; Jaycee; Travelers baseball, Amvets; Amvets league; Kiwanis; Panter Baseball, Dorn Park; St. Mary's softball, Sandusky School Softball, and Lady Lightning. Commissioner Koonce asked who is renting the parks for the tournaments and how much do we charge? Annette said it is Jason Caponi out of Margaretta. Chris Leibacher runs the duck pond tournament. They have limited fields, so they come to us to use Dorn Park. We charge \$75 a day for resident and \$125 a day for non-resident. We also charge the agencies for the staff cost for those days to maintain the fields.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Sherrie stated that she had someone ask her about why we are so worried about having gym space in the rec center when we have all this gym space in the schools that aren't being used. Shawn replied that the gyms are all being used until 8pm for the next month. A lot of the elementary spaces are cafeterias. Not every building has staffing that allows for staffing. However, the school's gyms are used 6-7 days a week. Jackson is also being used 4-5 nights a week with competitive cheer. Sherrie asked if we get requests for rentals at mills. Jason said we do get requests and we can share the fee. Shawn stated that the forms to fill out for gym rentals is on the schools website or contact the athletic department.

Commissioner Koonce asked who is responsible for maintaining our website for the city. Jason stated that it goes through Tom Horsman and Leslie Mesenburg with the city manager's office. They are in the process of developing a new website. Jason has access to the rec page. Commissioner Koonce said that the page that has the calendar with multiple events happening, and where do we see the pictures and videos of these things happening. Jason said our biggest megaphone is our rec FB page. The calendar page is just for our online registration. Annette explained how we use REC DESK for our registration and invoicing.

Commissioner Koonce stated that he appreciates when questions are asked everyone makes an attempt to respond. He is wondering when questions happen in our meetings how do we get that information back to them? Jason said we have a sign in sheet with an email so we can respond. Jason will send out emails with a follow up. If there is ever an instance where there hasn't been answered, please let him or Linda know, and we will certainly address that.

Danielle Murray addressed rec board. Danielle is the executive director at Lake Erie Film Commission, a 501C non-profit. Lake Erie Film Commissions largest goal is to help create thriving year-round film and TV industry in Sandusky and Erie County. They plan on achieving this goal through grass roots efforts. LEFC held their first fundraising event with the Run Scream Run 5K on October 29, 2023. This was to raise awareness of LEFC and benefit the citizens Sandusky. They are currently planning their second Run Scream Run 5K on October 27th, 2024. They plan on making this an annual event. Danielle invested \$20,000 into the Run Scream Run first race with intent to create a better Sandusky. She has not asked the city for one cent for the project and none of her proposals to the rec department would cost the city anything additional except for their initial investment. She is asking the city for 3 things: 1. For the Run Scream Run 5K to be added to the RUNdusky docket and for

the City of Sandusky to re-do all the postcards with the Run Scream Run logo, or the LEFC logo, to represent their 5K on the RUNdusky docket. The Rec dept. has known about the Run Scream Run for over a year and their 5K should have been added to the RUNdusky series originally. Because that didn't happen, she is asking that the RUNdusky postcard to be re-made and include the Run Scream Run. If the Run Scream Run is not added to the RUNdusky docket she will consider taking legal action against the City of Sandusky. 2. She would like the Run Scream Run 5K to be added to the JSP upcoming event sign. The events on the JSP sign now are all past events and would like to propose a new sign with the Run Scream Run listed. 3. She would like LEFC address to be added to any all physical, downtown Sandusky maps. She would like her 3 proposals to be discussed by the board at this meeting or to be discussed in a timely manner. Sherrie asked if this a private thing or is the city going to be helping run it. Danielle said she hoped the city would help. Sherrie said sometimes if you do for one then you have to have that card for every event that organization. Jason updated rec board that he has had several emails with Ms. Murray. If there is talk of legal action, he doesn't want to comment further. But some of those questions have been addressed in email that he can provide to rec board. Danielle asked Sherrie to refrain her question. Sherrie asked again if the city is going to be part of it or is she is a private asking to be added. Danielle said she would like to be added to the RUNdusky docket. They are all non-profits like her. Commissioner Koonce stated he wasn't sure what the docket is. Danielle explained how the docket works. Jason explained the race series. This past year was the 5th year and expanded to 9 races. There is one every month. Kay Kay added that this year the blue streak 5k will be part of the race series but not on the card since they couldn't commit to a date. Danielle stated that she is not threatening legal action she is just saying the rec dept. has known about the Run Scream Race since last year and doesn't understand why they wouldn't want to add them.

Next Meeting Wednesday March 13th, at 4:15pm at City Hall, 240 Columbus Ave.

- i. Motion to adjourn at 5:25 pm by Bernie Seiler, Seconded by Elizabeth Collins-Fiske