

**Grove City Park Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

**March 12, 2025 6:00 p.m.**

**Agenda Item A. Role Call**

Chair Clark called the meeting to order at 1802.

Members in Attendance: Sam Clark, Gary James, Trisha Zelenak, Jamie Hannon

Others in Attendance: Council Member Melissa Anderson, Director Jack Castle, Deputy Director Kelly Sutherland

**Agenda Item B. Approval of Minutes**

Review of minutes from December 17, 2024. Mr. James motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Zelenak. Vote taken – Motion approved.

**Agenda Item C. Hearing of visitors**

Park and Recreation staff; Michele Demmy, Darcy Dooley, Jason Barnes, Amanda DeCastro, Heather Southerington, Maddison Matthey, Heather Brokaw, Brittney Hanks, Hunter McCoy

Angie Wise, City of Columbus ADA coordinator

**Agenda Items D. Old Business**

None

**Agenda Item E. New Business**

1. **City Council Report:** M. Anderson; Elected to City Council in Jan 2024 under the moving vision forward for the community. The council has presented legislation for the Community Center to move forward which includes what the community and Park Board members work over the 3 years has discovered. Legislation reiterates what the residents have said via surveys and verbally, and YMCA has come up in conversations. YMCA has a great mission but residents, task force, and survey results don't believe they can provide what the community wants. This resolution is a giant step forward for the future of a Community Center.
2. **Director's Report**
  - a. Capital Updates
    - i. RecSchool: Three years displaced; the building is almost complete. Delays caused the Jan. 17, 2025, date to be pushed back to mid-April. Michele Demmy is prepared for the move when the final occupancy date is given.
    - ii. Fryer Park Fields: Construction is moving along to get it cleaned out. Motz has three crews on site to get caught up, even working into the night; one turf field is completely done, and three remaining fields should be done by next week. Fencing is on target to deliver fields in the first week of April

- b. Community Center Updates: Committees are formed, and the Mayor and Council are for their committee member selections. 2 park board members, two council member selections, 1 Mayor appointee, and city staff serving as ex-officio. J. Castle would like all committees to be done in 8 weeks.
  - i. Site Selection Committee will hire a consultant
  - ii. Finance Committee. Gary James is leading the charge on the committee for Park Board

*Question: S. Clark. How is the conversation about Big Bounce going?*

*Answer: J. Castle. Conversation is ongoing; counter-proposal points will follow up. However, if someone else is interested in the property, we have to keep going to be able to serve the community.*

- c. Foundation Updates
    - i. Have completed the EIN; IRS paperwork is being completed now. State portion completed. Two people committed to being Foundation members in the meantime hoping to have 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in April.
3. Deputy Director's Reports
- a. Staff Report: Staff introductions and future planning
    - i. Pre-K, M. Demmy; RecSchool overview, nature-based preschool program, with new building, growing to pre-COVID enrollment
    - ii. Communication, D. Dooley; Supporting staff and communicating the P&R message, social media, forms, brochures, assist in city-wide communication as needed
    - iii. Sport & Wellness, J. Barnes; overseeing adult and youth sports and fitness classes and leagues, creating new sport leagues for 2025, providing new opportunities as staff comes on board. H. McCoy, background from the Y, working with new coaches, umpires, schedules, and staff, researching and growing new opportunities for Grove City community
    - iv. Events, A. Decastro; assisting with planning of events, marketing for all events city-wide, attending events and posts on social media during and after events. H. Brokaw, creating working relationships with Community partners, planning existing events and creating new events
    - v. Youth, H. Southerington; Youth expanding beyond PARK, adding out of school camps, summer camps, youth programming, family programming, expanding current afterschool PARK program to allow additional enrollment at the schools
    - vi. Adaptive & Inclusive, M. Matthey; started in Nov background in adaptive sports, creating new regional-wide opportunities for all ages and abilities, sports, wellness, socialization and Outreach, creating procedures on modification for all programs department-wide
    - vii. Aquatics & Facilities; managing the aquatic program fully for the first time in 5 years, hiring and training guards, front line staff and managers,

creating community event nights. Managing all the facilities, vendors and part time staff that work at City owned rentable facilities

**Agenda Item F. Board Member Discussion**

- No Discussion

**Agenda Item G. Action Item Recap**

No action items from this meeting

Next meeting scheduled for April 17, 2025 at 6:00p

**Agenda Item H. Adjourn**

Unanimous adjournment; 6:50 p.m.