

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
CITY OF AURORA  
November 9, 2015

The Recreation Advisory Committee of the City of Aurora, Ohio, met on Tuesday, November 9, 2015 at Aurora City Hall Council Chambers, for the purpose of holding a special meeting. Mr. Conces called the meeting to order at 6:35p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Pete Conces- Chairman  
Mike DeMay  
Andy Vidmar  
Scott Weber

Absent: Al Sobodosh  
James Vaca  
Nina DeWitt

Also Present: James Kraus – Parks and Recreation Director  
Madeleine Marazzi - Recording Secretary

Mr. Weber moved to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2015 meeting. Mr. Vidmar seconded and the motion was passed, 3–0 with a voice vote, 1 abstain Mr. DeMay.

Mr. DeMay moved to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2015 special meeting. Mr. Vidmar seconded and the motion was passed, 4-0 with a voice vote.

**CITIZEN’S COMMENTS:** None

**Director’s Report:**

Parks and field: Mr. Kraus stated the crew has been working with the arborist and planted the fall trees, and removing leaves around the city buildings. They have also layed around 44 pallets of sod down on the outfield of field #3. The city will pay 75% and the ABL will pay 25% of the cost of the sod which was purchased from Hartville Sod. The ABL has agreed to pay for the outfield fence on field #3 and concrete to go in the dugouts on Field #12 at Sunny Lake.

Sports: Mr. Kraus stated travel basketball is underway with practices. The uniforms and balls have been purchased. Because of timing the program will be almost the same as it was in the past. Discussions are under way on how it might be changed in the future.

The recreation basketball program will be underway soon; sign up is over with approximately 350 boys registered. Soccer and flag football has ended. The soccer program was partnered with Kenston and Solon to avoid cancelling the league in certain age groups. This went overall pretty well. We had two citizens' help with the flag football program this year and reviews will be sent out soon for analyses of the program.

Community Event: Breakfast with Santa tickets went on sale today. The car show was cancelled due to inclement weather and was held on the next day. The Fall Festival was a good turn out with a beautiful day.

Mr. Kraus stated Colleen Martin the Special Events Coordinator has accepted a full time position as Deputy Clerk of Council in our city. Interviews have been held to replace her and an offer has been made. Mr. Conces asked if this would be kept as a part time job. Mr. Kraus stated yes it will be a part time job. Mr. Conces stated he was sorry to lose Colleen; she had a certain magic touch on her special events that put a great light on the city. Mr. Kraus stated we are bitter sweet in her leaving, she served the longest in that position and we certainly will try to keep her strengths going with the new person and move forward. Programs coming up will be the Turkey Trot, Breakfast with Santa and Tree lighting ceremony.

Senior: Programs are going extremely well. There have been a few more bus repairs this year more than normal. Some is break down, some is timing where the mechanics have not been able to get to. Largely it's getting older. It was purchased in 2006 so in 2016 it will be ten years old, and the bus should be replaced hopefully in 2017.

### **Project Updates:**

Kiwanis Moore Park: Along with finishing field #3 as discussed above the business path from the field to the back of the business on Rt.43 has been finished. The ball field path that runs from the skate park along field #5 and behind the two varsity fields and out to the road is completed. There are still a few spots that need to be filled in at the edges due to height and will be done between now and the spring. Mr. Conces asked how the flow of the new parking lot was going. Mr. Kraus stated he sees during the day a few cars that might be the staff of the establishments which opens up parking for the patrons.

Sunny Lake Park: Mr. Conces stated we have a vendor who is extremely excited about running the concession stand and is looking forward to having some fun opportunities for the community. Mr. Kraus stated they did the concessions for the Fall Festival and it went very well.

Mr. Kraus stated there are programmable locks on the restrooms now, which allows automatically opening and locking the doors, which frees up an employee. Mr. Kraus stated heaters will be installed in the concession stand and restrooms to be able to use all winter.

Spring Hill Park and Deed Building: Mr. Conces stated the deed building looks outstanding. Mr. Kraus stated there is a little bit of electric work needs to be finished, the air conditioning unit will be installed and grading should be done soon. The Historical Society will have a fund raiser to help with the interior.

Mr. Kraus stated now that the deed building is moved we need to secure the area at Spring Hill before opening to the public. Mr. DeMay asked how far the property goes to the Eastern side before it becomes private; he was interested in running there. Mr. Kraus stated he would get back to him with the property lines.

Disc Golf Course: Mr. Kraus stated he has the hardware for the signs and would be working on the signs during the winter. There are a few concrete T boxes and some minor clearing that need to be completed. There will be a map and score cards that will have directions along with the T-boxes. It will be set for beginner I and II and more advanced regulation courses with some of the baskets have two to accommodate the different levels. Discussion was held on possible leagues, and selling discs at the concession stand.

Ad Hoc Recreation Committee: Mr. Conces stated the Ad Hoc Recreation Committee has presented their proposal to the Mayor. The Mayor asked the Ad Hoc Recreation Committee to discuss options on how the city would fund these options. Mr. Kraus stated a meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in Council Chambers to discuss more options. Mr. Kraus stated the Mayor's intent is to get a community pulse on certain funding to see what would be a better way just for overall impressions, not stating that the committee members are financial experts. The funding options are largely for a community center not the Hartman project.

Mr. Vidmar asked if the athletic fields were a done deal. Mr. Kraus stated the plan is to hopefully have the architect's conceptual plans by Thanksgiving, which would include estimated construction costs to then be presented to the Mayor and Council for the next step. Discussions have been a little about if this can be done with existing funds and not have to do any sort of tax increase.

Mr. Weber asked if there was a target date for the fields to be completed. Mr. Kraus stated there are a lot of things involved but estimated time assuming everything went well the earliest would be spring of 2017. Mr. Kraus stated the process is if funding gets put in the budget next year, engineering plans have to be completed, bid construction, grading work, construction etc. this is all assuming everything goes well.

Mr. Weber asked what was going on with the Aurora Inn and possibly losing the use of those fields. Mr. Kraus stated nothing at this time, but that is why we are being proactive and possibly relocating those fields in the future to give us a little more flexibility and options.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Field usage and fees: Mr. Kraus stated the fee recommendations will be presented to the committee as a whole on Monday and if approved will go on to Council for approval.

Mr. Weber wanted to state that preserving the usage of the varsity field and playing the CABA tournaments here was for a useful reason. He stated eleven young people received over \$1.1 million dollars in scholarships to go on to college thanks to games on fields such as ours.

### **UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND FEES:**

T-shirts for sports programs: Mr. Kraus stated he and the Sports Coordinator were weighing a few options on team jerseys. Perhaps having a reversible shirt with different colors for games and then you would have the shirt to use again next year instead of purchasing one. Kenston does this now and he wanted to bring the option up. There would be the option if a shirt was lost or outgrown to purchase a new one. This option might save some money on the shirt purchases in the long run.

Mr. Conces stated that he disagreed with the concept for the reason that kids are walking around with pride wearing their shirts around town and they love the different colored shirts. Mr. Conces stated there was something to be said about the bonding growth from the experience of belonging to a team with his name on it and the town he is from and holding on to the memory. Our job is to serve everybody and the hope is they grab the experience and run with that sport.

Mr. DeMay stated it was nice to go to tournaments and see the different colors. Mr. Vidmar stated he still has the shirts that his parents saved for him and it was incredibly nostalgic to him, and felt it is a big piece of history to have.

After discussion it was recommended to leave it as it was at this time.

Non-profit fundraising fee waiver request: Mr. Kraus stated he had been approached by a Non-profit group that wanted to waive the \$150 fee that we charge to use Sunny Lake Park for a fund raising race. Mr. Kraus stated a non-profit group can come to the board and ask if they

can be added to the non-profit exempted list so they don't have to pay for a pavilion. This was intended for groups that might have a little get together. Once we started having races we developed a fund raising fee for groups such as these.

Mr. Conces stated he would not be willing to make an exemption. This is a reasonable fee and a group like this does put wear on the facility. Discussion was held on the fees and it was decided as a group to leave it the way the fee is stated.

**MOTION:** The Recreation Advisory Committee recommended  
to deny fee reduction to the non-profit group of  
Aurora Believe in Dreams

Mr. Weber moved: Mr. DeMay seconded and the motion passed 4-0 with a voice vote  
Yeas: Mr. Weber, Mr. DeMay, Mr. Conces, Mr. Vidmar. Nays: None

Metal Detecting Rules for Parks: Mr. Kraus stated a few years ago we had this in our park rules but they got paired down due to a few of them being covered under the police dept. ordinances. A couple of people have asked about metal detecting being allowed in the parks area. Mr. Kraus stated we have told them as long as they don't destroy the area and put it back the way they found it. He will be checking with the surrounding park systems to see what their policies are on the matter.

Mr. Weber stated he was not in favor due to being worried about damage to the area; it does not benefit the parks to allow this. Mr. Kraus stated we don't monitor the parks for this and we are taking it at good faith that the areas will not be destroyed.

Mr. Vidmar stated when you are dealing with the grassy area that will be used for children to run around on he did not think it would be a good idea to make the ground irregular for them or for the mowers. He did not mind in the woods or other area. The committee stated once they get the information from other park systems they would discuss again if needed.

**MISSCELANNEOUS:**

Article: Mr. Kraus passed out an article on bike parks gaining popularity. Mr. Conces stated we have talked about this for about two years and it is really gaining popularity at this time. One of the things he felt to discuss as a possible project for 2016 was the possibility of this happening. He asked Mr. Kraus to earmark properties that might be a good fit to see if we can make this become a reality.

Mr. Vidmar has been asked about the sidewalk being built on Rt.82 from Bissell. Mr. Kraus stated this is part of the connectivity program. This sidewalk is to connect the existing sidewalk on Bissell to the center of town, and is now connected to Rt. 306.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. DeMay moved to adjourn: Mr. Vidmar seconded and the meeting adjourned at 7:15pm

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Mr. Conces – Chairman

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Madeleine Marazzi – Recording Secretary