



City of Green
Meeting Minutes
Parks & Recreation Board

April 2, 2025 / 6:00 pm / CAB

I. Call to Order

Chair Jennifer Foster called to order the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board at 6:03 p.m. on April 2, 2025.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

Present: Parks Board Members Jennifer Foster, Dan Pollock, Shawn McDaniel, Michael Griggs, and Chrissy Kuznik

Also Present: Valerie Wax Carr, Service Director
Mike Elkins, Administrator Park Planning & Development
Ava Scott, Student Municipal Representative
Johanna Gooding, Division Secretary

Absent: Rick Miller, City Council – Env/Parks Committee
Alexa Groen, Student Municipal Representative
Celia Otterstetter, Student Municipal Representative

IV. Approval of Minutes – The February 5, 2025 and March 5, 2025 minutes were approved.

V. Citizen Comments

- a.) **President Spanky Raymond and Director of Registration Jennifer Jansen of the Green Baseball and Softball Federation (GBSF)** – Mike Elkins presented an overview of properties and locations of fields, the efforts the City has provided in support to GBSF, maintenance of fields, cost, and hours of play. Jennifer Foster inquired about loss of fields. Conversation ensued.

Spanky Raymond then spoke about GBSF:

- i.) **History and overview:** To include community involvement.
- ii.) **Vision:** Positive changes through sports.
- iii.) **Board Members:** Overview.
- iv.) **Programs:** Recreational baseball, softball, travel baseball, challenger baseball.
- v.) **Community:** Focus and special events; clinics, umpire training, winter play, equipment swap.
- vi.) **Code of Conduct**
- vii.) **Enrollment:** Displayed in bar chart format.
- viii.) **Future Needs:** Indoor training, batting cages at East Liberty Park, field maintenance, additional fields and/or lights, storage facilities, winter training needs.
- ix.) **Current Field Status:** Six at Greenburg (four have lights); two at East Liberty; three at Kleckner (one is new); two at Kreighbaum; two at The Chapel; three at the Akron-Canton Airport area (which are expected to be a likely loss); and three at Green Local Schools that will be a loss at the Greenwood, along with the middle and intermediate schools. (High school will have varying availability.)
- x.) **Field Scheduling Challenges:** Fifty-five teams, slots currently needed at 110 with 90 slots, which can be up to 100. This leaves a remainder ten slot shortage.

Conversation further ensued on the following topics of discussion; Jennifer Foster inquired with Spanky Raymond regarding field lighting; Mike Elkins mentioned ballfields at churches and liability concerns the churches have; Dan Pollock inquired on whether there are any new plans for fields; T-ball questions from Shawn McDaniel were asked; and lastly, field condition inquiries were made by Jennifer Foster. Valerie Carr updated the board on restroom facilities and parking for Kreighbaum Park for next year, along with Kleckner Park's possible expansion and scheduling.

VI. Administrative Reports

a.) Service/ Parks & Recreation –

- i) **School Bus Garage and Storage Facility Project:** Valerie Carr provided an update for the school bus garage and storage facility project, which also includes Kleckner Park restrooms. The bids were open and the City is under budget. There will be a meeting next week to discuss the details and timeline.
- ii) **Arbor Day Celebration:** The Arbor Day Celebration will be held Friday, April 25, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. located at the Willadale Trail entrance from Boettler Park.
- iii) **Willowdale Trail Dedication:** Dedication of the Willadale Trail will take place at the Arbor Day Celebration and there will be a featured Speaker: Dan Rice, President and CEO of the Ohio Erie Canal Coalition.
- iv) **Kleckner Park:** Valerie Carr stated that there will be a soft opening of the park to include special needs families of Challenger and Goal. The attendees will also include sports team players and Parker the fox, to keep the number of people smaller due to some attendees who have sensitivity to larger crowds. Hotdogs will be served. In late Spring to early Summer the regular opening will occur with the Cal Ripken foundation. As soon as the date for this is available, the board will be notified. Mike Elkins stated the scoreboard is up and it is a great asset to the field. There is a little more work to do on the project before they leave. There is some signage still being worked on by Valerie Carr, Scott Robbins, and Mike Elkins that has to go up in the field before they can open it. There is also some landscaping as well that needs to take place. It may be mid next week when things will start to finish. He continued by stating that the field will be locked at this time due to safety measures, with access only to those who are scheduled to work on the field. Conversation ensued.
- v) **CORE:** More information will be forthcoming on the completion of the CORE. Staff will be in the facility around July or August, after completion of the inside. August 22, 2025 will be the public preview in conjunction with the school's open house. November 15, 2025 will be the grand opening.
- vi) **Kreighbaum Park:** Mike Elkins gave an update that the field is near completion with upcoming installation of turf infill, bleachers/benches, planting of grass seed, and clean up.

- vii) **Garlic Mustard War:** Jennifer Foster described this event and stated that it is being held on May 3, 2025. Shawn McDaniel inquired on Earth Day and Clean Green, which Valerie Carr responded about how this event is alternated with the Garlic Mustard War event.

b.) **Council** – None.

c.) **Planning and Zoning** – None.

VII. Unfinished Business

- a.) **Southgate Farm release:** Jennifer Foster gave an update to the annual review of the Southgate Farm lease. The people who lease the farm provided information about their successes and challenges

VIII. New Business

- a.) **Recognition of Student Municipal Representatives:** Ava Scott was present and she was thanked for her continued support.
- b.) **Pavillion at Kleckner Park:** Dan Pollock stated Green Leadership would like to build a pavilion at Kleckner Park. A builder has agreed to oversee the plans and the building of it by students at the Portage Lakes Career Center, where Tina Saley's Building Trades Class will provide the labor for this project. Dan Pollock stated they will get donations and sponsorships and will have a plaque with varying levels of sponsorships. Valerie Carr stated the City hopes to match with funding that is left. She stated numbers are not available yet, and asked Dan Pollock to provide numbers later of the estimate. Mike Elkins will reach out with the builder on this project. Conversation ensued.

IX. Adjournment –

Chair Jennifer Foster adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

APPROVED:

Jennifer Foster, Chair

Date

ATTEST:

Johanna Gooding, Secretary

Date