

Recreation Commission Minutes
Monday, August 26, 2024 7:30pm

Members Present, Briggs, Brubaker, Boulware, Ganim, Gawlik, Hanna, and Lazaridis

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Rachele Engle, Luis Pena, Jamie Mewhinney, Rhonda Miko, Tom and Meg English

Minutes: Approval of July 22, 2024 Minutes; Motioned by Ganim, seconded by Gawlik

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Kingston shared that the Pickleball Courts are underway. Crews are finishing with the intermediate and base layers and are scheduled to asphalt next week, should be done next week hopefully

Council Report:

Councilman Ganim reported that Council approved legislation recommended by the Commission for the change in language around corporate/non-resident memberships. The Firefighters Clambake will be held on Saturday, September 7th at 6 pm, with advanced ticket sales only. September 14th will be Shred Day. Bring your old documents and nonperishables to participate in that.

Director's Report:

Director Engle reported that this upcoming weekend will be the last weekend for the pool. Luis and Joe have had a good pool season, hopefully the last weekend will have good weather. Our Late-Night Swim event was rainforest themed and it went really well. On August 10th we held the Trike and Bike at Blossom Hill, Jamie was on-site, we raised around \$25,000. We had good weather and everyone had a nice time. Lastly, Mark your calendars for Booville on October 27th.

Aquatic Area Report:

Labor Day weekend is the last weekend for the outdoor pool. The hours will be 12-6 on Saturday and 12-5 on Sunday and Monday. It was a really good season.

Right after Labor Day, on Tuesday, begins our annual maintenance shutdown. The Natatorium and Activity Pool will be shut down for about 3 weeks, should reopen Monday, September 23rd. The Therapy Pool will remain open regular hours during that time.

Moving into fall, in October, we'll have Monday/Wednesday swim lessons and swim clinic on Thursdays and the High School team will be practicing once a week.

Athletic Area Report:

Bocce is wrapping up. Soccer Academy starts September 7 with 206 kids currently registered for that, but sometimes we get a late influx of kids. Volleyball starts practicing this week – games start September 7th.

Pickleball lessons with Claudia are very successful, at max capacity for this session – begin in September; “101” is learning the game and then “102” is adding to that strategy and there are waitlists for both. Pickleball League is starting. We had kicked around an idea of starting one in September since the field house isn’t so busy. There will be 9 divisions with a possible 54 teams; 38 teams are registered now. We have some waitlists in some divisions so we’ll try to decide which ones we may need to expand or close.

Lacrosse clinic will begin on September 4th on Tony Niccoli turf field on Wednesdays for the month of September; registration is a little low, but we’ll continue to push that.

Fitness Area Report:

Rhonda thanks Mayor Kingston and council for the approval of cardio equipment for the fitness area; it was much needed and will be installed soon. Fall schedule for fitness classes isn’t changing too much; we are adding a line dancing class on Thursdays at 7:15, but no boots allowed! Gina is on maternity leave so her classes are on pause until she is back

CVYO Report:

Football and soccer are actively playing games; lacrosse and basketball are practicing Soccer tryouts are in late September; we’ll be looking to use the fieldhouse as we can throughout the season. As always, Meg mentioned the 5-year plan again.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Rachele led a discussion with the commission on the number of people in a household, which was recently raised as a potential issue with a unique family situation. Currently, there is no cap on number of people in a household. We have a family where 2 adults purchased a family membership, and they host individuals for 9-12 months throughout the year. They were adding them to the family membership so there is currently 14 people on their membership; 2 adults and 12 kids. Similarly, there’s another scenario where families host an exchange student or an athlete and for that they’ve purchased student memberships, in addition to their existing family membership. Currently we don’t have any language around what a “family” would look like so I wanted to talk about the logistics with the group.

Other rec centers have the following policies:

- Independence has no cap, 3 and under free
- Westlake is 2 adults and up to 8 kids, 6 and under free
- Seven Hills has max of 4 kids, then any other child is \$105 for the year (nonresident member fee is \$675)
- Rocky River 2 adults and as many kids as you want on the max family plan (\$615)

Ganim – is there a number that is “costs” for what an average family uses in terms of resources?

Engle- We don’t have a “cost” per family, but 5 children on a household is probably the most that we see

Meg - What is the definition of family? Some blood or legal connection I would think

Andie - Are they under 18? Engle - Yes, they are in high school, ages 15/16

Briggs – I would hate for this anomaly to impact Brecksville families

Boulware – Can we have a separate billed rate for this type of thing?

Engle – We talked about using a student rate or military type cost, which is currently \$109 for the year

Briggs – I like the idea of prorating for additional other individuals

Ganim – Outside of this anomaly, has this been an issue?

Engle – In any other similar scenario, they've bought a student membership

Ganim – if we have a membership type for this already, I don't think we should change the policy

Gawlik – I don't think we should do anything either, it's a little naïve or maybe smart that this woman feels these kids fit into a household, but I don't think it's a big deal in the grand scheme of things

Rachele thanked everyone for their feedback

Public Comments:

AJ Ganim read an email sent to Mayor Kingston for public comment, highlighting that it is an issue he takes seriously.

The email read in part “I am a nonresident member of the rec center and at recent weekend at the pool, I was surprised to hear the unedited version of My Humps by the Black Eyed Peas, including the word ass. [Select lyrics included and read aloud].”

- Mike Sands, 3964 Forest Ridge Dr, Richfield, OH 44286

Councilman Ganim apologized and reiterated that in the 1000s of hours of music played at the rec center, this isolated song must have slipped through and the error was taken seriously by the staff.

Adjournment: Motioned by Ganim, seconded by Gawlik at 8:00 pm

Submitted by Andie Lazaridis