

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY OF AURORA
November 30, 2020

The Recreation Advisory Committee of the City of Aurora, Ohio, met on Monday, August 10, 2020 via Zoom, for the purpose of holding a regular meeting.
Mr. Conces called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Pete Conces- Chairman
Mike DeMay
Katie Trook
Scott Weber
Harold Hatridge
AJ Sobodosh

Also Present: Laura Holman – Parks and Recreation Director
Amy Martin - Recording Secretary

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

Mr. DeMay moved to approve the minutes of the May, 28 2020 meeting. Mr. Weber seconded and the motion passed, 6–0 with a voice vote.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

COVID19 Update

City buildings remain closed

Administrative

Staff: Office: working combo of in-person and remotely. Parks/Fields Seasonal: 5 parks, 4 rec (50% of planned) worked very hard to keep everything looking great. Many of the seasonal will go back to school starting this week.

Arborist

Drainage improvements at Tree Museum going very well; planning for fall plantings, tree care.

Community Education

All programs cancelled – school buildings – through December, 2020. Considering alternative locations. Virtual mad science, Crayola camps were getting some registrations but are not overly popular.

Community Events

Alternative July 4 activities: virtual 5k, decorating contest, drive-in movie, frog jumping videos. Drive-In Concert Series: August 6 & 20, September 3 & 17, 6:30-8:30pm, Hartman. Car Show, Fall Festival being discussed. Holiday events will be considered as we get through the fall.

Parks & Fields

Disinfecting of bathrooms, playground equipment. Everything is currently open with signs posted EXCEPT boathouse. Reservations continue to be only for groups of 10 or fewer. Community Gardens very popular this year. (Article)

Seniors

Colleen offering weekly zoom events, drive-up concept at Hartman. (Bingo, parking lot party)

Sports

Summer baseball and softball went well – very busy season on the fields, including Hartman. Fall adult softball, travel baseball and softball are either starting up or continuing. Soccer: 250+ signed up, pre-k thru 8th grade – protocols will be followed. Offering an ‘ultimate sports’ kids 3-7 camp Tuesday evenings in September-October: no one registered yet.

Project/Program Updates

Hartman:

- Hartman Restroom building completed
- Paved parking lot
- Soccer and ballfields heavily utilized
- Shelter ordered, planning for fall construction
- Signage, dog waste dispensers, etc. coming soon

Spring Hill

- Beautification (invasive species removal around lake)
- Clearing around barn and gathering information on updating barn

Signage: community sign repainted, working well; other signage being ordered (Hartman Park first)

Splash Pad: agenda item

- Timeline: finalizing drawings to be bid in fall
- Design review completed
- Arborist provided a report re: trees that needed to be removed/moved

- Construction to begin in fall/winter (utilities)
- Completion by July 4, 2020

Recreational Demand Study

Rec demand Force is on hold.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Deb Conti asked what programs we were offering through the Parks & Rec Department. She also asked about the article that was posted in the Advocate regarding activities and asked if we had responded.

Ms. Holman explained that we have a few online offerings such as Mad Science and Crayola; however, we did not have a good response. She also explained that the school will not allow additional programming through September 1st so would have to look into alternate locations.

Ms. Conti asked how long the stars would remain up and Ms. Holman said that they would remain up until Labor Day.

OLD BUSINESS:

COVID-19 Updates

NEW BUSINESS:

Calendar Review 2020 – it was decided that the next meeting would be via Zoom on November 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Splash Pad Update

MISCELLANEOUS:

Mr. Trook asked if schools are closed will fields still be open. Ms. Holman explained that everything is up in the air and changes daily. Ms. Holman is in close contact with the schools. Mr. Conces explained that it depends case by case and moment by moment.

Mr. DeMay asked what happened to the flower baskets. Ms. Holman explained that the parks staff is working on saving them.

Mr. DeMay asked about invasive fish (pumpkin seed sunfish) at Sunny Lake. Ms. Holman said that she will look into it.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hatridge moved to adjourn: Ms. Trook seconded and the motion carried with a voice vote of 6-0. Meeting was adjourned at 6:47 pm.

Mr. Pete Conces – Chairman

Amy – Recording Secretary