

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
CITY OF AURORA  
September 30, 2019

The Recreation Advisory Committee of the City of Aurora, Ohio, met on Monday, September 30, 2019 at Aurora City Hall Council Chambers, for the purpose of holding a regular meeting. Mr. Conces called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Nina DeWitt

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

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Wolf moved to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2019 meeting. Mr. Weber seconded and the motion passed, 6-0 with a voice vote.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Area Updates:**

**Arborist:**

Ben is working on plantings to secure areas dug out to improve drainage at the Hartman Park Tree Museum and developing landscaping plans for the Townline Fields. Fall planting will begin soon – this includes right-of-way and memorial trees.

**Community Education**

We are working to adjust our delivery schedule of seasonal brochures. Winter submissions are due this week.

**Community Events**

We enjoyed a full schedule of events this summer! The Drive-in Movie was well received, as were the Summer Concerts. All July 4<sup>th</sup> activities were well organized and attended. The city's 220<sup>th</sup> birthday was highlighted during the day, with a special design on race t-shirts; themed community floats; costumed characters representing figures in Aurora history; and

more. Further 220<sup>th</sup> celebration opportunities included the planting of a Buckeye Tree in front of City Hall with support from the Rotary Club of Aurora and Aurora Historical Society's beautiful photo walls at Heinens. Other successful community events included: Perennial Swap, Fishing Derby, Car Show, and the Fall Festival and Business Showcase. We are working on dates for next year's calendar and look forward to celebrating the holidays with the traditional Tree Lighting/Holiday Show and Breakfast with Santa.

### **Fields**

Field usage continues to be strong with fall baseball, softball, and soccer. Fields 1&2 were amended to improve the quality of ballfield soil and drainage with support from the ABL. The ABL is also planning to put in outfield fencing on those fields. Townline Fields were slit seeded, and we continue to work to improve the quality of the grass there. It will take time to move the red clover out of this former farmland, but overall we are pleased with the fields. Drainage at Sunny Lake ballfields is being addressed one field at a time, with Field 12 up first.

### **Parks**

Boathouse operations ran smoothly. New and replacement playground equipment has been installed at Liz Strahan, Sheldon, and Kiwanis Moore Park. Paddock River Preserve will be dedicated in the next few weeks, and a new sign and Trail Map will be available for the park. Fall beautification is underway – the decorations at the Fall Festival were stunning, and city buildings will see similar decorations this week.

### **Seniors**

Going strong! We continue to need part-time senior bus drivers.

### **Sports**

Fall sports are underway with record registration numbers in both soccer and volleyball. Fall co-ed softball teams will have playoffs beginning this week.

### **Project/Program Updates**

#### **Hartman Farm**

Concrete ADA parking spaces, a security lighting post, and an asphalt path have been installed. The vault restroom project is being bid now. Playground equipment and shelters are next on the list. On the other side of the property, Aurora's Harmon Cross Country team has held two home meets at the new course – the first time in 12 years!

#### **Rec Center Demand Study**

A draft of the rec center demand study is being sent this week for review.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Calendar:** Checking on availability for a December meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

City Council approved development of a new website. Ms. Holman asked all committee members to look at our current website and other area city site to provide input.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

Mr. Sobodosh inquired about guidelines for pets at the soccer fields. Mr. Wolf suggested that we supply bags for cleanup. Mr. Conces suggested posting a sign outlining the guidelines.

Mr. Weber asked what the Rec Demand Study will do. Mr. Wolf explained that as community demographics appear to be changing we want to gather data that will assist in determining what our needs are.

Ms. Trook discussed a few things that the Historical Society has completed. Great feedback on the display of old pictures in Heinens of Geauga Lake, Town Center and Aurora sports commemorating 220. Event this weekend for children geared around Aurora history.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Wolf moved to adjourn: Mr. Weber seconded and the meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm. Motion carried with voice vote of 6-0.

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Mr. Pete Conces – Chairman

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Amy Martin – Recording Secretary