

**Oxford Parks and Recreation  
Board Meeting  
9 / 3 / 20**

**I. Call to Order**

Ken Bogard called the meeting to order at 11:33am.

**II. Roll Call**

Ken Bogard, Kevin Ackley, Mike Smith, Rich Kammer, Holli Morrish and Casey Wooddell  
Craig Bennett and Wes Cole absent

**III. Reports**

**a. Recreation Director**

**i. New Programs / Events** – Mr. Wooddell began the meeting with Parks and Recreation department updates. Mr. Wooddell noted Parks and Recreation began a School by the Pool program. The class runs 7:45am – 4:15pm Monday – Friday. The classroom is located in the conference room at the pool. School by the Pool gives parents/families a child care option that need it and the children receive teacher interaction while they are there. They have their own work stations and the class is being led by a licensed educator (one of Talawanda’s teachers who is currently on furlough). School by the Pool will be re-evaluated when Talawanda goes back to school.

**ii. Teen Center – The Attic** - Mr. Wooddell advised Parks and Recreation also launched the opening of the teen center called the Attic. The Attic offers Air Hockey, PS4, Nintendo Switch, Xbox one, online gaming, homework station and hangout areas and is geared for grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. Participation does require a membership to the TRI, which is a \$6 fee for a year for that age group. The first time they come they can try for free, after that they must have a membership. Mr. Wooddell asked Ms. Morrish if she can help us get the word out about the Attic teen center. Mr. Wooddell stated the hours of operation are 10am -7pm Monday - Friday and 10am – 1pm Saturdays. Ms. Morrish advised she was networking with one of our people last week, adding she put our marketing flyer on their webpage stating then a link goes out to their students families each week. Ms. Morrish also shared from our Facebook page to Talawanda’s Facebook page last week. Mr. Wooddell added Amy Macechko met with the youth initiative team (YIT) yesterday and asked if there was a way for teachers to get the info directly to the students. Ms. Morrish noted she has the ability to do an internal share with teachers from 6<sup>th</sup> grade and above and see if they would be interested in mentioning it to their students. Mr. Wooddell thanked Ms. Morrish adding he will appreciate the help from the teachers.

**iii. Oct. 29 – Halloween Event** – Mr. Wooddell advised the Lions Club and Parks and Rec will not be having the uptown Halloween event this year, which included OPRD Trick or Treat and the Lion’s Club Parade, due to covid. However, Parks and Recreation has added a new Halloween event to participate in. Our new event will be a drive thru event located at the TRI. Mr. Wooddell noted he’s contracted a circus company to come perform on the TRI grounds to give a Halloween/circus event for kids. Staff will hand out bags of candy at the end of the drive thru. Mr. Bogard asked what does Trick or Treat look like this year. Mayor Smith said he would check into that but doesn’t think we will have Trick or Treat, will definitely see if there are other options and start talking about it. Mr. Wooddell noted the Parks and

Recreation Drive through Halloween Circus event will be held the Thursday before Halloween on October 29 from 5-8pm. The Circus option is pretty expensive but it is catching on since communities haven't been able to have their usual fall events. Mr. Kammer asked is this an outside event? Mr. Wooddell noted yes, this is an outdoor event and can be rescheduled if it rains and will hope we can make it work.

**Veteran's day** – Mr. Wooddell stated we are talking about having a virtual Veteran's Day. Looking at putting all the pieces together that we normally have into a video format.

**Activity guide** – Mr. Wooddell advised due to covid our spring brochure was almost useless and did not get the usage they would have during a regular season. Normally at this time we would be finishing up our fall brochure. However, since things are so questionable right now, we're going to do smaller brochures, with the next one covering October - November and listing some coming soon options. For right now we're not doing a 6 month guide and have it end up like our spring brochure.

- b. **Aquatic Center** – Mr. Wooddell said we are winterizing the pool and we hope to be all done very soon. This is the first year doing it on our own. It's going well, it's not difficult, just time consuming.
- c. **Fall Sports / New Restrictions** – Mr. Wooddell advised we kind of got hit a few weeks ago with some new restrictions. One of which are Double headers are now not permitted against more than one team. Meaning, one team cannot play 2 separate teams in one evening any more. Now we have about 6 weeks left, instead of 2 weeks. Ms. Morrish asked what the rationale is for this. Mr. Wooddell says by doing this they are trying to keep the number of people exposed to each other in one day lower, adding but they can play them the next day (after a calendar day). This is for amateur youth, adult, etc. Mr. Wooddell doesn't know how that works for another state for collegiate sports. Mr. Ackley said it's a big deal for hockey. It's different when they lumped them all together with indoor and outdoor sports. Mr. Bogard asked what about the basketball leagues. Mr. Wooddell said right now we don't know about gym usage with Talawanda. If we cannot get in to use the Talawanda gyms, we're not sure. We've been talking to Miami about getting into their gyms so we could run practices there into December. Then after December we would have to figure out games. Mr. Wooddell stated we are going to do whatever we can to run a basketball season.

Ms. Morrish noted she is really surprised about all the new restrictions for all the outdoor activities. She understands the indoor restrictions, but surprised about the outdoor adding we need to find a balance in all this. The outdoor options have been a saving grace for a lot of people. Mr. Wooddell said it's definitely difficult when they lump the indoor and outdoor sports together. Ms. Morrish said it's the isolation piece, it is a real thing and it's incredibly troublesome to some folks, the mental health issues are very real. Mr. Wooddell said he thinks it's going to get worse with us going into fall and winter, everyday it gets darker a little sooner which makes things a little harder, meaning people will likely spend even more time indoors.

Mr. Smith advised he is confident the City Council is going to approve those funds for the extra gym usage at Miami. Mr. Bogard asked what about basketball at Miami. Mr. Ackley said there is no final decision on those yet, and that includes hockey that begins in a month.

**d. Talawanda Schools** – Mr. Wooddell asked for an overview on what Talawanda is doing for athletics for the fall /winter season. Ms. Morrish noted we're limited on our capacity – 15% is what we're allowed for games. Athletes, band, cheerleaders, coaches are all included. For football games specifically, last Friday night they allowed seniors to purchase 3 tickets but for the future games they will break it down to only 2 tickets for seniors and go down the line. Mr. Wooddell asked are the opposing teams allowed spectators? Ms. Morrish thinks the opposing team is allowed 150 guests total, adding they did not reach that goal last week. Ms. Morrish knows Lakota and Hamilton had inspectors attend a football game to check the numbers and if they go over they can be fined. So Talawanda is truly trying to follow those rules.

Ms. Morrish noted as for other sports, they never meet their capacity even when they don't have a pandemic. So we are not having an issue there with more flexibility with other fall sports. But with football we will be very meticulous counting the numbers as they come in. Mr. Wooddell said so not a lot of decision making on sports after the fall. Ms. Morrish noted if you followed our August 3 work session with the Board of Education, they indicated they will begin visiting this about week 5 or 6 to see how to move forward after week 9. Ms. Morrish said if our board developed the process, it hasn't been shared with her yet, but she does not anticipate a change. Even though we are 100% remote, we are finding out about more cases daily. Ms. Morrish advised we have quite a few people in quarantine, some are student teachers. We allow teachers to come in to their classroom to use their smartboard to teach and some of them had a student teacher assigned to them and 3 of them tested positive and everyone that had been around them for 15 min or more has been quarantined. Right now Ms. Morrish is working 100% from home, even though we are 100% remote, we are still seeing our numbers climb and are inundated everyday with the pressure from the Governor's office for the rules they have to follow. Ms. Morrish noted now it's coming down to the public schools to do contact tracing, and taking up over 50% of our administration time, it's an every day thing. Ms. Morrish advised based on the numbers right now, it looks like we're going to continue online teaching.

**e. Miami University** – Mr. Wooddell asked if Mr. Ackley or Mr. Kammer had an update for Miami. Mr. Kammer said he's looking at the dashboard and the positive tests are at 704, noting there is a difference between the isolation and the quarantine students. There are still a hand full of those students out there. Students have been going out of Butler County to test, so they don't get in trouble if they test positive.

Mr. Kammer said their RA's are back, and are doing training. Mr. Kammer said he reads inside higher education and there is a new school closing its doors and there are new spikes every day. We are figuring how we're going to program. His numbers for RAs nearly dropped in half.

Mr. Wooddell asked Mr. Ackley, does this change on how you're running Goggin? Mr. Ackley said nothing changed from last month, athletes still come dressed and coaches have masks on. Mr. Ackley noted there are differences in different states and in some areas coaches are not wearing masks at all, but when they come here they have to. Mr. Ackley advised he heard with the over 700 tested who tested positive, that no one was hospitalized. Mr. Kammer said yes, that's accurate.

Miami is also issuing disciplinary actions to students if they are found to have a party on campus or off campus and having too many people there, and are requiring body cam footage from the police department to get a better look at what these parties look like and see if they can identify these kids. Mr. Bogard asked if at some point all students at Miami will have to be tested. Mr. Kammer knows that when they come to campus they will be screened by Butler County personnel and they will have a wristband given to them.

Ms. Morrish keeps trying to find positives in this, sees us not having any hospitalizations in all those numbers is a good sign and hopes we're getting to see a peak here soon. Mr. Kammer thinks that when students return the numbers will go up again. Mr. Ackley asked have there been many changes in dorm situations. Mr. Kammer said it hasn't been changed that much. They would still have their same roommate, but there are more singles since people are dropping but that can change in the spring. Mr. Ackley asked if Dodd was used as a quarantine facility and Mr. Kammer answered yes.

#### **IV. Old Business**

##### **a. 5 year plan / Master Plan**

Mr. Wooddell stated he had a meeting with the City Manager, Doug Elliott and submitted the recommendation letter from the Recreation Board. He also discussed with the Finance Director, Joe Newlin last week. The goal at this point would be to inter weave our plan into another comprehensive plan. Mr. Wooddell said while he would prefer a master plan that would be all inclusive, money wise he thinks it's wiser to look at items for the next 5 years. Mr. Smith agreed stating that he hit the nail right on the head with rolling the Parks and Rec plan into the comprehensive plan for now, it's a better option. Mr. Bogard said he looks at it as we can submit addendums and if things improve in a year or so we can add those things in. Mr. Wooddell noted every year we submit what we think big projects look like for the next five years, so we could add them at that time also. Mr. Wooddell said as for updates with the facility, the City has access to grant money that non-profits like the TRI cannot obtain. The City and TRI together are looking at the tennis court project, which may not be until spring 2021 to do that project, but that is one way the City can help out the TRI with this project. If we do this at the park, the City has to pay for the whole project, but with the TRI the City can pay for half and the TRI pays for half. We are currently looking at that and getting creative and looking at local contractors to get it done within our \$100,000. Ms. Morrish asked what material you are pricing. Mr. Wooddell said concrete and looking at a local contractor for another bid and also looking at asphalt for a less expensive option.

##### **b. Miami Student Programming**

Mr. Wooddell advised we hit the pause button on this for now. If something changes we'll look then. Right now we just don't have the indoor space available.

Mr. Bogard said stay positive through this whole thing adding it's good to have a virtual meeting. Mr. Wooddell said he doesn't know how people feel about meeting together. Ms. Morrish is voting virtual meeting for now. Mr. Bogard said maybe shoot for January to meet together for the joint meeting and for the time being we can see if the TRI board has any plans. Ms. Morrish added just a side note, for her it's easier to make virtual meetings than having to go multiple places, so going virtual is a plus for her.

#### **V. New Business**

#### **VI. Next Meeting – October 8, 2020 at 11:30am virtual zoom meeting.**

#### **VII. Adjournment - Ms. Morrish motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Smith second. All aye.**