

City of Chillicothe
Parks and Recreation Department
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
June 21, 2021 at 5:15 PM

Meeting Attendance

Director Josh Norris, Assistant Director Drew Hinton, Advisory Board Members Lou Cowherd, Mitchell Holder, Janice Shaffer, Scott Ellis, Mayor Theresa Kelly and First Ward Councilman Reed Dupy.

1. Call to Order

The Chillicothe Parks and Recreation Board met Monday, June 21, 2021 at 5:15 pm in City Council chambers. The meeting was called to order by Director Josh Norris.

2. Election of Officers

In good order, Director Josh Norris asked for nominations from the floor for the offices of president and secretary. Advisory Board Member Mitch Holder offered Lou Cowherd as candidate for president. Jim Hinrichs seconded the nomination. Lou Cowherd was voted in with general consent. Advisory board member Jim Hindrichs offered Janice Shaffer as candidate for secretary. President Lou Cowherd seconded the nomination. Janice Shaffer was voted in with general consent.

3. Approval of Previous Board Minutes

President Lou Cowherd asked the members for additions or corrections to the previous board meeting minutes. None were offered and President Cowherd declared them to stand as approved.

4. Old Business

Simpson Park Playground Project

Director Josh Norris recounted details of items left to complete the project, including concrete work, seeding, need to use offenders within the park to complete items to prepare, and he shared the plan to approve a soft opening for Wednesday, June 23, 2021 with a grand opening TBA. President Lou Cowherd thanked Josh for his detailed explanation of those items that have been done as well as those items yet to be completed as the project nears completion. Director Josh Norris offered that he will contact the media regarding the soft opening to the public and that he will coordinate the Grand Opening, inform members of the Advisory Board and contact the media when that date is established.

5. New Business

President Lou Cowherd asked for board members for new business items. Mitch Holder suggested that an advertisement campaign be considered for Danner Park Ball fences. He offered that the chain link ads could 1. Generate revenue 2. Aid athletes in depth perception on the field. Director Josh Norris thanked Mitch for the idea. He mentioned that SPA sold advertisements in the past to offset costs. Josh thought that this might be a project to explore in the fall/winter. Lou Cowherd thanked Mitch Holder for his idea.

President Lou Cowherd welcomed Scott Ellis to his first meeting as an Advisory Board Member.

New Business: Director's Report

Chilli Bay has had a successful opening with only one rain out day so far. Water walk, water aerobics, school morning parties, pm private parties and swim lessons, both private and group are going well. Josh offered Madison Eller coordinates lessons. Pool daily attendance so far is averaging 394 guests and that last Saturday, attendance was 624 due to the warm weather. Scott Ellis inquired about causes for the high attendance including the status of area pools this year, coming off COVID-19 restrictions and construction. Josh responded that others in the area are reportedly open. He and Drew mentioned Brookfield, Kirksville, Hamilton, and Carrollton for sure. They speculate that the decision to remain open last summer helped create a guest loyalty and extended our reach regionally, combined with the hot, dry conditions has boosted daily guest counts.

Summer Sports Mudcats season is underway. Having the offenders helped prepare the park for the season. Wet weather delayed May bulb replacement. YMCA has their last full week of co-ed baseball league with make-up games wrapping up for some teams to completely finalize the season next week. Josh offered that the Parks Department and the YMCA recognize that they jointly had a learning curve this year and both Josh and Ashlie look forward to making improvements to Y-Ball next year. Legion and Junior Legion ball are also being played.

Resumption of the Offenders Program took place on June first and both Josh and Drew look forward to a more open communication between the prison and the park as they prepare for big projects. Thus far, this program has helped with lawn care and other park projects.

Park Projects Metal roofs will replace shingled roofs in Danner and Simpson.

Upcoming Dates

- July 3rd Freedom Festival south of town (not in Simpson Park)
- July 5th Dads to work on ballfield material to work on repair in Danner
- After July 4th smaller parks to receive playground mulch
- July 10 Slice Bread Day Festival (Silver Moon Plaza)
- July 16-25 Josh out of town
- July 17 Car Show (Simpson)
- July 19 Park Board Meeting tentatively scheduled with Assistant Director Drew Hinton leading
- September 12 Chautauqua (Simpson)
- July 16-25 Josh out of town

6. Financials

Director Josh Norris offered that there were none to report.

7. Questions and/or Comments

President Lou Cowherd inquired about the condition of the Simpson Park wooden bridge closest to the bathrooms. Director Josh Norris offered that the goal is to make repairs before Chautauqua. President Lou Cowherd inquired about the deterioration of the Simpson Park tennis court and the possibility of resurfacing. Director Josh Norris acknowledged that it needs attention. He said that the Chillicothe Street Department will be part of the conversation as they have recently acquired new machinery. Conversation about the price at Danner park for court resurfacing was \$80,000 for one overlay, stripe and repaint requires budgeting and approval.

President Lou Cowherd asked Janice Shaffer if any other volunteer groups had inquired and suggested that volunteers might adopt the old prison property for trash pick up. Janice responded that there have not been new inquiries and she thanked Lou for the suggestion.

8. Adjournment

President Lou Cowherd declared the meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 19 in the City Council Chambers with Assistant Director Drew Hinton directing the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Shaffer
Secretary