

**City of Bellefontaine Neighbors**  
**Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board**  
**Tuesday July 21, 2020**

**Members Present:** Dave Cross, Judy Mantych, Tina Fichter

**Members Absent:** Kathy Endorf

**Staff Member(s):** Martha Snead, Amy Mulholland

**Guests:** Alderwoman Barbara West

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**The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. in the Gazebo behind the Recreation Center.**

**Martha Snead welcomed the Park Board back and filled them in on the Recreation Department activities since their last meeting in February. She also introduced Barbara West who had volunteered to serve as Chairperson of the Park Board until another volunteer can be found.**

The Recreation Center closed to the public on Friday March 20<sup>th</sup> due to COVID-19. Full time employees continued to work, and part time employees were allowed minimal hours to assist with a deep clean of the building. A list of specific tasks that were completed was given including cleaning of air ducts, rafters, walls and blinds, carpet and furniture with special attention given to the weight room, restrooms, locker rooms, kitchen and indoor pool.

All room and park reservations were either refunded or rescheduled. Class registration was credited to each participant's household and all passes were extended for 90 days to reflect the time the building was closed.

A reopening plan was put together for the Recreation Center referencing information from St. Louis County Health Department, The CDC and Star Guard. Precautions were implemented for our opening on June 15<sup>th</sup>:

\*The front doors are locked and patrons are met at the door by a staff member. Temperatures are taken with a touch less thermometer.

\*We require everyone 10 years and older to wear a mask when entering the facility.

\*Plastic sneeze guards were purchased for the open counters in the front office. Patrons are asked to scan their own ID cards. Hand sanitizer is provided at all counters.

\*Participants are limited to 25% capacity for each area and monitored to remain a 6ft. distance.

\*Doors are propped open, and furniture is removed from the lobby area to discourage congregating.

\*Saunas are turned off until further notice

\*All areas of the Center are sanitized throughout the day. A check sheet is kept in the office.

\*Building hours have been adjusted to accommodate the change in our attendance. We have seen greater participation in the mornings and less in the evenings and therefore have shifted our hours of operation. Covid-19 precautions have not allowed full capacity in our meeting rooms and most room rentals have been cancelled. It was decided that it was too costly to be open on Sundays when attendance must be kept to a minimum. Our hours of operation are now Monday through Thursday 9:00 am – 8:00 pm, Friday and Saturday 9:00 am – 6:00 pm. When we eventually open on Sundays the hours will be 11:00 am – 6:00 pm. The Gymnasium for walking and the Weight Room will open at 7:00 am Monday thru Friday.

**Martha shared information on the condition of the outdoor pool.**

The outdoor pool was drained and power washed as per our contract with Westport Pools with the intention of opening in mid-summer. It was advised by Westport that the pool would need maintenance in order to open for the season. There were many areas where patching was needed on the interior surface, tile around the surface needed replacing and an issue with the underwater lights. At the following Board of Aldermen Meeting, Martha requested help with the scope of the work and was contacted by Alderpersons Barbara West and Michael Wiese and Patrick Barratt from the Planning and Zoning Commission with their support. The decision was made to collect estimates from several companies in order to clarify our options. We have had several contractors come out and offer opinions and options-all of which are being evaluated at this time with the goal being to begin work this fall and finish in the spring. The Park Board members all agreed that it was necessary to have the pool repaired in time to open for the summer of 2021.

Barbara West spoke to the members about her offer of hiring a grant writer to apply for two separate grants-one for the repairs on the outdoor pool and one for an addition to the Recreation Center or an additional facility which would allow larger events to be held.

**Martha Snead shared the following information about upcoming events /projects at the Recreation Center:**

Amy Mulholland will be hosting her Old Time Barbeque on Tuesday August 18 at 4:30 pm in the gymnasium. Several of the Park Board members offered to volunteer as it is our normal meeting night. We will also be holding the Halloween Dinner and the Silver Bells Christmas Dinner which will be listed in the brochure. Amy mentioned that volunteers would be appreciated for each event. Amy mentioned that the brochure will be going to print by the first of August and is expected to be mailed to residents around August 21<sup>st</sup>.

Martha asked Amy to expand on the current situation with the gymnasium roof. The repairs are in the budget but the City is looking into getting a grant.

Martha had received a phone call from Alderwoman Avant-Elliot asking the staff and/or Park Board to discuss the possibility use of the Recreation Center to distribute masks that had been donated to the city during the COVID-19 testing. It was agreed by all that it would be a good idea, and after discussion it was decided that the Recreation Center would be willing to distribute masks with the *advertised hours* of Wednesdays 3:00-7:00 pm and Saturdays 9:00-11:00 am while supplies last. Staff could also hand them out during our business hours to those who frequent the Recreation Center. They could be available to residents and to non/resident patrons who have a pass or whatever the BOA decides. We can collect addresses of those we give them to. Dave Cross, Judy Mantych and Tina Fichter volunteered to be available for a few of the scheduled times. Distribution will begin after it is presented at the BOA meeting and it is approved.

A discussion was held about a request from Alderman Carroll to have a Transportation Survey taken of those who use the Recreation Center. He was interested in finding out the age groups who participate and to see if there is any correlation between the method of transportation and the distance they live from the Recreation Center. The survey could take up to eight weeks to complete and report on. A discussion was held concerning the possible findings and what factors may contribute to a lack of accessibility. We thought it important to make sure that the teens using the gym for basketball were included later in the survey as the gymnasium is not yet open to capacity. They agreed that the surveys would be given out by staff throughout the week and could also be given out by Park Board Members at the same time if/when the masks are distributed.

A few new programs were outlined for the Board's information. We will be offering an 8 week "Matter of Balance" class sponsored by BJC which will educate participants about minimizing their risk of falling. This program will be directed to seniors, caregivers and those recovering from illness or injury. "Stop the Bleed" is a one hour hands on seminar, sponsored by Washington University, intended to encourage bystanders in a group setting to become equipped to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives. Both of these programs will require registration, but will be offered free to the public. There is the possibility of them being ongoing programs if there is continued interest. They will also be offered to staff for training.

Amy Mulholland mentioned that due to budget cuts we will not be offering the Halloween or Easter programs this year. In the past these programs have been offered at no charge to residents, but they require supplies in addition to a lot of full and part time staff hours resulting in costly events for the city.

Due to furloughing of BJC employees, the "Just Lose It" weight loss program that is co-sponsored by the Recreation Department will not be offered this year. BJC will contact us in 2021 with an update.

A discussion was held concerning the Wine & Beer Garden that is usually held in October. The Park Board members and Barbara West all voiced that they would like the event to continue but Amy Mulholland mentioned that it will be necessary to look into options for a liquor license. Judy Mantych offered Jim Christian as a possible resource due to his volunteer work for the Jennings "Do-Dads" group.

A discussion centered on the open positions in the Recreation Department. Martha mentioned that there are positions that have been discontinued but we still have a few Full Time positions that we hope to fill. Part time hours have been cut to be in line with the budget. Dave Cross offered to help with some outdoor maintenance in the area around the gazebo and miniature golf course if the department was having trouble keeping up with the cutting and trimming.

Martha mentioned that we are preparing the information for the MODOT audit of the van service that is done every three years. The results of which impact our future grant opportunities.

Martha brought up the idea of a tour of the Recreation Center and City property for the Park Board and Board of Aldermen once the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

The meeting ended with a viewing of the outdoor pool with Park Board members being able to see the interior surface and the work that is necessary.

---The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.-----

The Parks & Recreation Board will have our next scheduled meeting on Tuesday August 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Snead, Aquatics Director