

THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC RECREATION COMMISSION
March 17, 2026

The regular meeting of the Public Recreation Commission was held with the following Commissioners present: Messrs. Lee. Mmes. Rich and Bolton. Staff in attendance: Mmes. Webb, Swift, Sanders, and Jones. Messrs. Betts, Higby, Fitzpatrick, Lubbers, Benjamin, Heyl, and Ford.

Commissioner Rich called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

PRESENTATION

Hamilton Co. – Southern Ohio Air Quality Agency

INTRODUCTIONS

Sam Kremer – Marketing, Graphic Designer

Malachi Irby – CCD, Pleasant Ridge

Adrian Powell – CCD, Eastside

RETIREMENTS

None

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Learn to Ski – Snowboard Program

MINUTES

Commissioner Rich called for a motion to approve February 17th, 2026, Regular Board Meeting minutes. Commissioner Bolton made the motion to accept the minutes, and Commissioner Lee seconded. The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

None

DIRECTORS REPORT

HUMAN RESOURCES

April Jones provided an update on the vacancy report. April provided an update on the CFO; he will start on March 29th. The 3 Laborer positions have been offered.

FINANCE UPDATE

Austin Lubbers provided a general finance update. Austin is starting the Final Adjustment Ordinance and will meet with Senior Leadership next week to finalize the request. Austin Reviewed that FY27 budget and the current exceptions and reductions.

RECREATION OPERATIONS UPDATE

Brandi Sanders provided an update on Recreation Operations. She presented summer day camp and before- and after-school data, including a comparison between this year and last. The Clifton and Eastside sites are currently full and have waitlists, and staff are actively exploring options to accommodate additional children. After-school enrollment is lower than last year, likely due to changes in the voucher program; however, overall revenue has increased compared to last year. The SWISH program has been underway for two weeks, with 260 youth registered across 12 active teams. Fire and Kroger have been strong partners and donors supporting the program. Planning for Rec @ Nite is underway. The Planner RFP has been awarded to The Voice of Your Customer, which will lead programming for two of the four sites. A kickoff meeting is scheduled for next week. Additionally, the Spring Fling, a citywide Easter event in partnership with Radio One, will take place on March 28. Last year's event hosted approximately 1,000 children, and attendance is expected to increase this year.

Y2WK PRESENTATION UPDATE

Tim Heyl provided an update on the Y2WK program. The team presented to the Youth and Human Services Committee last Tuesday, and the presentation was well received. Y2WK applications opened in early January. The Mayor's Career Expo saw record attendance, with 833 participants pre-registered and approximately 1,200 attending onsite. A total of 72 interviews were conducted during the event. Super Saturdays will kick off on March 28, providing opportunities for participants to complete drug screenings, background checks, and onboarding paperwork. The program anticipates being fully funded this year, serving approximately 165 teens with CRC placements at recreation centers and pools, 6–8 with Parks, and 45 each with Police and Fire. Additionally, interview-readiness training sessions will be held on March 18 at Hirsch and March 19 at College Hill, in partnership with the City Law Department, to help prepare teens for interviews ahead of Spring Break (week of March 23).

DEPARTMENT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Director Betts provided an update on the environmental assessment. Matrix Consulting has submitted an initial draft, and the Directors have provided feedback. The report will be shared with the City Manager's Office. Plans are underway to have Matrix present at the April Commission meeting. Additionally, small focus groups will be held at recreation centers to review the report, with a broader review scheduled during the All-Staff Meeting on May 15.

PLANNING AND ENGINEERING - CAPITAL PROJECTS (UPDATE)

Maddi Nuss updated the Commission on the major capital projects underway currently:

Projects Under Construction:

- 2022-24 Projects from the Recreation Special Activities Fund 323 for the purpose of providing resources (\$1.5M) for improvements and renovations to recreation centers and outdoor recreation areas, security camera upgrades and installations at various sites and signage upgrades at various locations: \$700k is budgeted for CRC center requested improvement projects. \$350k is budgeted for security system improvements and \$450k for signage throughout all CRC sites. The Planning and Development Division completed a signage inventory at each CRC site. New sign designs, created by CRC P&D staff, have been approved. ETS requested the scope be changed to install the same type of camera system as CPD. **UPDATE:** Remaining funds are being used to finish up the signage projects and continue with the security

cameras. Bush Recreation Center will be the first to get the new sign. The camera projects are in progress.

- As part of the 2024-25 capital budgets, improvements at various tennis and sport court hard surfaces improvements are being planned for 2025-26. **UPDATE:** Sport courts at Daniels, Madisonville, Hartwell, Evanston, Mt. Airy and Schwarz are being scheduled for 2025-26. We expect over \$600k of sport court improvements will be made in 2025-26. The basketball court renovation at Daniels has been completed. Turkey Ridge is completed. Since the city term contract has been eliminated, all future projects of this type will need to be bid out through the city procurement system. This will increase the project schedule significantly. A proposed design to convert one of the Hartwell basketball courts to a hard surface futsal court is planned to start spring 2026, this was requested by the community.
- As part of the 2024 to 2026 capital budgets, recreation center roof renovations are planned. Several roofs are out of warranty, renovating the roofs while they can still be brought back into warranty (10 to 20 years) condition is desired. The cost of replacing the roof is much more than the re-warranty improvements. CRC has had the roofs out of warranty inspected to create a prioritized list. 2025-26 roof projects are being planned. **UPDATE** The Millvale roof testing showed it will need replacement in most locations; funds have been approved, work is being scheduled to begin December 2 and be completed by February 2026 for the HVAC. The Corryville Recreation center roof is scheduled for renovation along with a new HVAC unit. The Dunham gym and breezeway roof improvements have been completed. Price Hill recreation center roof work is complete. Emergency repairs at Winton Hills are in progress and, Hirsch is completed and Dunham Recreation center is being repaired with plans to replace a section in the Renovations of the Center.

Projects in DEI and Purchasing:

- As part of the golf division funding proposal, a new Neumann clubhouse is being proposed. A proposed design and layout was developed by CRC staff. The RFP for the design-build contract is in progress. The current proposal is to construct a new clubhouse onsite and keep the existing one open until the new is complete. Funds to budget these projects were approved 9/5/24. **UPDATE:** RFP bid documents have been created by CRC P&D. The DEI goals as of now are MBE 20% and WBE 13.5%. The RFP was submitted to purchasing on 3/3/25. bid on hold while funding assessed. The existing clubhouse will be demolished after the new one is in use. Currently, in document assembly in process to reissue RFP for Design-Build.
- As part of the golf division funding proposal, California Golf Clubhouse restrooms and kitchen renovations are being planned. **UPDATE:** An A/E firm has been hired to start the restroom renovation design. The design is complete. This work will be bid out.
- As part of proposed 2026-28 capital funding, the Madisonville Aquatic facility was selected by CRC staff to be renovated. The facility is in very poor condition and cannot be repaired without a major renovation. **UPDATE:** CRC has completed a feasibility study to develop the project scope, a CSR was submitted. A proposed layout has been

approved by CRC staff. An RFP is out for bid with a pre-bid meeting happening on 1/16/26. Project is contract phase with MSA chosen as the Design Firm.

Projects in Design:

Priority Project

- As part of proposed 2026 and 2027 COT funding, CRC will be receiving funding for the renovation of the Dunham Recreation Center. **UPDATE:** Scope of project TBD. CRC is studying what kind of space is needed. An RFQ for the full design is in progress and final submittal is due 10/21/25. A Feasibility Study will be completed at the end of March before the RFQ contract is completed. Contract is in Legal as of 3/13/26, Assessment Proposal sent on 3/13/26 plan to begin work early to mid-April for assessment and will amend contract for Design once Assessment is completed, MSA was chosen as the Design Firm for the project. Construction will be bid out after Design is completed.
- As part of the capital budget, design work for ADA access to the Riverside Sports Complex boat ramp restrooms, a new boat dock and connecting walking loop is in progress. The renovation is being designed by CRC staff. CRC did not receive the grant, ODNr recommends applying for it again when available. An RFP is in progress for the design work. The existing rolling dock is no longer usable; a new one has been constructed. The new rolling boat dock is complete and installed. **UPDATE:** With the grant being denied, the process to hire an A/E firm is in progress for restroom improvements. Design work being scheduled with Verdantas, site meeting set for 12/17/25. 60% set completed. Construction will be sent to bid once completed.
- Duke and CRC are working on a plan to relocate a storage structure and the gas pumps at California Golf course. Duke regulations do not allow these structures below the high voltage transmission lines. **UPDATE:** Meeting held 6/26/24 onsite, and again on 6/5/25 to approve the scope of work needed. Duke will provide the funding for the relocation. CRC and golf to coordinate the work. Plans are in progress.

COMMISSION BOARD COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEES:

BUDGET AND FINANCE UPDATE

Commissioner Rich provided an update. The Committee reviewed the FY27 Budget and exceptions and reductions, along with the proposed golf cart fees increase.

GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Commissioner Bolton provided an update on recent discussions. There is interest in conducting quarterly visits to recreation centers. The group reviewed ADM 22 (Vehicle Usage Policy), the Participant Conduct Policy, and the Director's Evaluation Committee framework. Edits are currently underway, with plans for further review at the April meeting and presentation to the full Board later that month.

OLD BUSINESS

7.a None Currently

NEW BUSINESS

8.a Recommended Action

Board Approval

Background

Board approval of the FY27 Budget

Commissioner Rich called for a motion to approve the FY27 Budget. Commissioner Lee made a motion to approve the budget, and Commissioner Bolton seconded it; the motion carried.

8.b Recommended Action

Board Approval

Background

Board approval for the increase in golf cart rental fees.

Commissioner Rich called for a motion to approve the increase of golf cart rental fees. Commissioner Lee made a motion to approve the increase of golf cart rental fees, and Commissioner Bolton seconded it; the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:51 PM

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Recreation Commission will be held on April 21, 2026, at the CRC Main Office.

Leslie M. Rich, President

Daniel E. Betts, Director

/ss Minutes prepared by Sonya Swift