

## **RECREATION BOARD MINUTES**

Minutes of the Recreation Board Meeting held on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013 from 4:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Present: Mary Jannides-Secretary, Katie McMillen, Jeff Courter, Ward Cartwright, Tim Bickel

Absent: -

Also Present: Duane Gaier- Parks Director, Jennie Rogers-Recreation Specialist

Jannides called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. Bickel made a motion to except the minutes and Courter seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Rotation of officers:** For the 2013/2014 meetings Jannides will be the President and Cartwright will be the Secretary.

**Dr. Alvetro/Cargill swimming lessons:** Thanks to the generosity of Dr. Alvetro and Cargill the City of Sidney will be able to offer two full weeks of free summer swimming lessons. The lessons will be held in July and you can sign up by calling the Parks and Recreation office.

**Batting Helmet Grant:** The Park and Recreation Department received a grant for 350 batting helmets from Play Hard Don't Blink Grant. The helmets were distributed to local baseball and softball organizations with in our community.

**Park Ranger update:** Our Parks Ranger Rodd Elliott has moved to the Water Distribution Department within the City. We are currently working on hiring a replacement for him. The candidate has completed some of the pre-employment testing and is schedule for the final one. After his pre-employment testing he will be required to ride with Sidney P.D. for a period of three months before he can take his duty as our Park Ranger. This training is provided to the Ranger because he will serve as a back-up for P.D. if the need would arise and in turn P.D. will help the Ranger if he needs back-up. Currently we have an interim Ranger until the new Ranger is trained. The interim is retired from P.D., Rod Austin.

**Early Bird Tickets:** 2013 Pool season tickets went on sale May 1<sup>st</sup> and will continue until May 31<sup>st</sup> until noon to receive the \$5.00 off discount. After May 31<sup>st</sup> the tickets will be on sale at the Sidney Municipal Pool. The Pool will open on June 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

**Born Learning Trail:** This will be ten interactive signs and games for children. This will be installed along the walkway in Tawawa Park beside the play structure at Geib

Pavilion. No tax dollars will be used for installation or equipment purchased. This will be funded through the United Way, The Women's Initiative and a Boy Scout Troop will be working on the installation of this project.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None at this time

**Comments:**

Rogers informed the board that Katie McMillan with Cargill informed her that the summer back pack program will be funded by Cargill. This is a new program for this summer. Currently the Parks Department receives a grant from the Ohio Department of Education in Columbus to serve meals to children at six sites during the summer months Monday-Friday. The back pack program will allow us to continue to feed the children during the weekends as well. Children are at risk for hunger and many families struggle to provide them the nutrition they need to thrive. As a result, many children are coming to the parks too distracted by their empty stomachs to focus on playing. Local backpack programs are one way to provide needed food to children who would otherwise not have adequate access to food during the weekends. The back pack program along with the Summer Food Program is a way to make sure that kids are fed everyday all summer long.

Courtier motioned to adjourn and Cartwright seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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Mary Jannides, Chairman

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Ward Cartwright, Secretary