

Evendale Recreation Commission September 16, 2010

Called to order at 7:33am

Roll Call: Michele Gottschlich, John Doviak, David Nichols, Alicia Hirnikel, David Nichols, Wayne Mosley, Pamela Meyers, Stiney Vonderhaar. Absent: Gus Janszen.

Recognition of Visitors:

Sandra Murphy, Gorman Heritage Farm
Barb Rohs, The Ladies Adventure Club
Jason Ramler, URS Engineers

Motion to approve the August minutes, with enhancements, made by Stiney Vonderhaar; seconded by Wayne Mosley. Motion approved.

New Business:

A. Sandra Murphy, Gorman Heritage Farm (GHF)

- Contract renewal negotiations between the farm and the village continue.
- This is the third meeting Sandra has attended in the last year, and Jim Cole has been to two other meetings. Both groups know they can talk to each other at any time during the year; so the need for a GHF Board Member to sit on Recreation Commission is not warranted. A trail committee, with representatives from Recreation, Gorman, and Griffin Preserve is also not necessary at this time. Questions and concerns between the groups can be resolved through a simple meeting when needed.
- A recent Valley Courier (9/8/10) article stated the farm is installing trail signage. Some signs are up, while other signs need postholes dug and the dry weather has made the ground tough to dig. The ideas gained at the June meeting are progressing.
- 150 members of "Give Back Cincinnati" are coming; sixty will work on the trails.
- The farm is focusing more on education rather than production. Trails will help with the educational process and add a recreational benefit. Chris Gordy, the new farmer, has twenty years of experience running an educational farm site.
- GHF ranked second for destination points among bike riders in Evendale. A bike trail through the farm is not being planned because bicyclists scare the animals, several accidents have occurred, and there have been several close calls for staff members as the bicyclist raced passed on the walking trails. As a resident living next to the farm, Wayne Mosley has concerns about installing a bike trail at the farm. There is a village-owned green space near the farm, maybe a bike trail could be added there. A question raised was, could the upper meadow have a paved, multi-use loop trail for walkers, joggers, and bicyclists?
- "Village trail" is a general term for the trail system connecting the south end of Evendale to the farm, recreation center, and onto Griffin Preserve. It is not meant to reference a specific trail through GHF.

B. Barb Rohs, Representative of The Ladies Adventure Club

- The group formed about two years ago after a Ladies Night at the Pool program. Each month they pick something different event to do that is affordable and can be done while the kids are at school. This group thinks “outside of the box” for their activities (i.e., rock climbing, kayaking, belly-dancing class). They will meet shortly to plan 2010-2011 activities.
- This is a very informal group; which is the beauty of the organization.
- The Recreation Center already helps the group by offering fitness classes, child care, a meeting place, etc.. Future needs may include contacts or parking places for bus excursions. If the department wishes to make a suggestion or has a program idea, contact Barb. She has a master list of email addresses for the group.

C. Jason Ramler, URS Corporation, Engineer for the Bike Trails Master Plan

- Phase 1 covered objectives and goals - this phase is complete.
- Phase 2 looks at existing conditions - what do we have, where do we want to go, and what is between those two points.
- Phase 3 is recommending projects. Part of this phase needs to be completed immediately. ODOT is working on Interstate 75, and the idea was raised to add a bike lane in front of General Electric (GE) along I-75. Councilman Chris Schaefer proposed the idea; and James Jeffers, village engineer, has discussed the idea with ODOT. ODOT is willing to install the bikeway if we can get the plans to them quickly.

Secondly, GE and Formica Corporation would like to donate land to Evendale and Reading. This will open a connection from Reading Road to the I-75 Bike Path. This pathway would allow GE employees to bike to work. A bicycle loop would be created from Reading Road west to I-75, north along the expressway, then the newly stripped bike lane on Glendale-Milford Road would bring bicyclist back east to Reading Road. A longer ride can be done if you ride down into Reading and cross over to the I-75 Bikeway using Mechanic Street west to Sheppard Road then north on the bikeway.

- Thank you was expressed to Jason for all of his time on this project. The trail information and books he left at Gorman Farm have been widely used.

Old Business

A. Lifestyle Essentials Report as noted in the packets. Jennifer Shapiro will be at next month's meeting.

Director's Report

- Halloween Fest is Saturday, October 23rd, 6:00-10:00pm.
- Pool Update
 - The return lines will be tested in the next few weeks.
 - The pool will be painted (white) this fall. Fall is usually drier than the spring, and this will allow the paint to cure over the fall, winter, and spring. The deep end will be filled with water over the winter to keep the pool from heaving during the freeze and thaw of winter. (The pool sits on area of natural springs.)

Phi Lambda Pi Report

- Fresh Meat Competition is almost complete. The winning pair each receive a \$100 VISA Gift Card. This year's competitions have had a "minute to win it" theme, as well as other fun games.
- Upcoming projects include volunteering at Gorman's Sunflower Festival, the annual Haunted Trail on Saturday, October 23rd; and maybe adopting a family at Christmas time.
- Upcoming activities include outlet shopping and watching a Bengals football game.

Open Discussion

- In early 2009, the commission's fees sub-committee developed a "cost recovery" pyramid. This strategy was adopted by the full commission in March, 2009. The pyramid helps to figure, or show, how much the village will subsidize a program (examples: July 4th is a community wide event so it is heavily subsidize; while tennis is more for the individual so it is subsidized very little.) Golf fees were increased starting last year and summer adult softball was increased this year. The plan was to increase the adult basketball league this year; however, questions have been raised. At this time, the increase will not take place. At the next meeting, the commission will discuss the process.
- Complaints, per Pamela Meyers, are being heard about the commission's decision to increase the shelter house rental date from six months to one year.

Motion to adjourn made at 9:02am by Pamela Meyers; seconded by Stiney Vonderhaar. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynne Thole
Administrative Secretary