

PARK BOARD

September 14, 2026

The September 14, 2026 Park Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers by Kate Niederkohr, Chairperson. Park Board members present were Cathy Browne, Kate, Niederkohr, and Erin Smith. Jon Blackburn, Dean Leonard, and Bill Sturgeon were absent.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; Todd Karg, Parks Manager; Trey Johnson; Tommy Jenkins; Phil Schiffarth, Brandstetter Carroll, Inc.; Lonnie McMillan, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The minutes of the August 10, 2026 Park Board meeting, having been mailed to each Park Board member, were approved as received.

At this time Mr. Trey Johnson, representing the Upper Sandusky FFA, addressed the Park Board requesting permission for the FFA to hold a 5K Turkey Trot in Harrison Smith Park and at the reservoir on Saturday, November 21, 2026. Park Board members voiced no objections provided the Winter Fantasy of Lights (WFOL) and Mr. Aaron Schoenberger, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor, approve the request.

Mr. Tommy Jenkins addressed the Park Board indicating that the “Local Musician Showcase Concert” he organized that was held on Saturday, September 5, 2026 at the Bandshell in Harrison Smith Park went well. Mr. Jenkins indicated that he would like to have similar events in this location next year in the spring and in the fall. Mr. Jenkins inquired about combining his event with the annual Autumn Cruise and Park Board members indicated that he would have to contact the organizers of the Autumn Cruise to determine if they would be interested.

The date for painting the walking bridge in Harrison Smith Park is to be determined. Mr. Karg indicated that there are six (6) individuals for sure who have volunteered for this project.

Mr. Karg reported that he has received a sample of a surface for the Splash Pad in Bicentennial Park but he was unable to bring it to the meeting tonight as it is on a 3’ x 3’ concrete pad. Mr. Karg invited Park Board members to visit the maintenance building in Harrison Smith Park to see the sample.

Mr. Karg also reported that he has been put in touch with representatives from Sherwin Williams regarding the resurfacing of the tennis and pickleball courts in Harrison Smith Park.

Mrs. Niederkohr noted that the \$500.00 bonus for each of the Pool Managers will be addressed at the next Park Board meeting due to there being no quorum at this meeting.

Park Board members inquired with Mr. Karg about preparations for the 2026 Winter Fantasy of Lights (WFOL). Mr. Karg indicated that he has been in contact with Mrs. Leslie Hayman regarding the event.

Mr. Phil Schiffarth, Brandstetter Carroll, Inc., shared the results from the community engagement and a conceptual design for the new swimming pool project. It was noted that the top four (4) aquatic features, as voted on by the public, were: 1. Waterslide, 2. Beach entry, 3. Diving boards, and 4. Lap/exercise lanes. It was also noted that the top four (4) aquatic programs, as voted on by the public, were: 1. Swim lessons, 2. Movie nights, 3. Swim/dive teams, and 4. Adaptive programs. Mr. Schiffarth presented an updated concept, a technical drawing, and pool house plans which include gutting and rebuilding the interior of the existing pool house. An area for a concession stand to serve hot food including sandwiches was discussed and Mr. Schiffarth indicated that the plan will be revised to include a concession area. It was noted that the existing pool is 7,358 square feet, the proposed new pool with seven (7) swim lanes will be 8,030 square feet or with eight (8) swim lanes it will be 8,305 square feet; with the entire area of the new swimming pool, including the pool deck, to be 10,590 square feet. Mrs. Niederkohr requested itemized costs of the pool, pool house, and added features at the next Park Board meeting. Mr. Schiffarth stated that he will have updated plans and pricing at the October 13, 2026 Park Board meeting.

Park Board members agreed that due to October 12, 2026 being Columbus Day the Park Board meeting will be moved to Tuesday, October 13, 2026 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Karg shared two (2) options for the inclusive playground to be constructed at Bicentennial Park, with one (1) option being \$300,000.00 and one (1) option being \$275,000.00. Park Board members agreed that decisions will need to be made at the October 13, 2026 Park Board meeting in order for construction of this area to take place in the spring of 2027.

Mrs. Browne reported on a compliment received from a lady from Kenton who visited the Upper Sandusky Swimming Pool recently and who indicated that she loved all of the input, sharing, etc. on the Swimming Pool's Facebook page.

There being no quorum, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned.

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Kate Niederkohr, Chairperson