

PARK BOARD

July 13, 2026

The July, 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 Jon Blackburn, Cathy Browne, Dean Leonard, and Erin Smith. Kate Niederkohr and Bill Sturgeon were absent.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; Todd Karg, Parks Manager; Laura Wines; Janeen Heilman; William Dunlap; William Dunlap; Danny Schwartz, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The summary of bills totaling \$2,252,219.77 was presented.

A motion was made by Ms. Browne, seconded by Mrs. Smith, for the approval and payment of bills totaling \$2,252,219.77. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

The minutes of the June 8, 2026 Park Board meeting, having been mailed to each Park Board member, were approved as received.

Mr. William Dunlap presented a proposal for renovations and improvements to the disc golf course located near the reservoir which could draw people to Upper Sandusky to play this course, and he indicated that a league could be established and tournaments held similar to other communities. In his proposal, Mr. Dunlap provided pictures of some problem areas on the course that need to be addressed. Mr. Karg noted that the Parks Department is now maintaining the disc golf course and some improvements have been made to the course since he was hired as the Parks Manager. Mr. Dunlap also indicated that he submitted his name to UDisc as the course ambassador for this course and he was approved. Mr. Dunlap will continue to communicate and work with Mr. Karg for the improvements to this course and sponsorships may be sought to cover the expenses. Mayor McColly stated that he wants to discuss the details of establishing a disc golf league with Mr. Ben Buckland, Law Director.

Mrs. Laura Stoneburner and Mrs. Janeen Heilman, Co-Swimming Pool Managers, reported on the following:

- Beginning Monday, August 3, 2026 they would like to begin operating under reduced hours at the pool due to high school sports and band and lifeguards who are college students returning to campus.
 - o The proposed hours and schedule for the swimming pool beginning August 3, 2026 are as follows:
 - Monday thru Thursday - 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
 - Closed on Fridays.
 - Saturday and Sundays normal hours.
 - Labor Day Monday, September 7, 2026 will be the final day of the 2026 swimming pool season.
- Swim lessons and swim team are now over for the season.
- There have been several sponsors come forward to cover the cost of daily passes at the swimming pool this summer. These donations are greatly appreciated.
- Ms. Browne expressed appreciation for the lifeguards who assisted with swim lessons. Mrs. Stoneburner and Mrs. Heilman indicated that the lifeguards who assisted with swim lessons volunteered their time to do so.
- Mrs. Wines indicated that Mr. Karg has helped this year with issues experienced with the restrooms at the pool house.

A motion was made by Mr. Leonard, seconded by Ms. Browne, to approve the proposed hours and schedule at the swimming pool for the remainder of the season beginning Monday, August 3, 2026. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Acting Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Mayor McColly indicated that Brandstetter Carroll, Inc. is proposing a community day at the swimming pool on Monday, August 10, 2026 to share information and gather input from the community about the proposed new swimming pool. Mayor McColly stated that currently the plan is to reopen next year with the existing pool, shut it down in early August 2027, and begin construction to replace the swimming pool following the shut down.

Mr. Karg reported on the following:

- McGuire Automotive is still working on a new type of surface for the Splash Pad in Bicentennial Park.
- Alumni who were in Industrial Arts class in High School who helped build the walking bridge in Harrison Smith Park were asked if they would like to paint the bridge. So far four (4) alumni have expressed an interest in this project with the hope that possibly two (2) additional alumni would also help. The tentative plan is to do this work over the 2026 Labor Day weekend with the bridge to be blocked off and closed while the work is being done and not opened until the paint dries.
- Improvements to the grill area, located between the pool house and the white shelter, in Harrison Smith Park are needed as two (2) of the four (4) grills are working and the bases of the other grills have broken off. Mr. Karg indicated that he will explore funding options for this project.
- The need for the installation of tile for the gutter outlets on the north and south sides of the white shelter in Harrison Smith Park with the tile for the runoff water to be ran to the pond was described by Mr. Karg. Mr. Karg will contact contractors who may be interested in this work and present his findings at a future Park Board meeting. Mayor McColly suggested Mr. Dave Schneider, Collections System Supervisor, be contacted to determine if this work can be done in house or if Mr. Schneider can assist with this work.
- The painting of the interior of the white shelter in Harrison Smith Park was discussed. Mr. Karg noted that Mr. Aaron Leightey, who did the work earlier this year on the improvements to the white shelter, has indicated that he would be willing to submit a quote to power wash, scrap, and paint the interior of the white shelter if the City is interested. The possibility of installing metal as a lower ceiling in the shelter was discussed as a option instead of painting. Mr. Karg will pursue ideas to address this project and report his findings at a future Park Board meeting.
- At the kiddie playground in Harrison Smith Park a climber recently broke and this playground feature has been temporarily closed until a repair is addressed. The cost of a replacement climber is \$1,320.00 and would take five (5) weeks to arrive from Gary, Indiana. Mr. Karg will reach out to local service organizations to see if they want to assist with the purchase of the replacement climber.

A motion was made by Mr. Leonard, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to approve the purchase of a replacement climber for playground equipment at the kiddie playground in Harrison Smith Park at a cost of \$1,320.00. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Acting Chairperson declared the motion carried.

- Mr. Karg stated that there is a post at the kiddie playground in Harrison Smith Park that a telescope was mounted to, but the telescope is no longer there. Mr. Karg will consider possible options to utilize this post for in the future.
- Park Board members inquired about the status of repairs to the bandshell in Harrison Smith Park by CSI Construction, as approved by the Park Board earlier this year. Mr. Karg indicated that he hasn't received any word on a possible date for these repairs but he will contact CSI Construction soon.
- Mr. Karg would like to redo the landscaping at the bandshell in Harrison Smith Park as a future project.
- Discussion was held concerning the inclusive playground in Bicentennial Park and the Capital Budget Fund grant of \$199,000.00 for this project. Mr. Karg presented drawings showing options for this area and noted that he would like to see a total soft surface for this approximate 4500 square foot area. Mr. Karg indicated that the soft surface could cost up to \$300,000.00. Playground equipment for the area was also discussed. Mrs. Smith indicated that she reached out to fellow special needs parents and has received a lot of ideas and needs for this area including more shade, swings, a communication board, and fencing to fence the area in.

A motion was made by Ms. Browne, seconded by Mr. Leonard, to proceed with obtaining bids for the inclusive playground area in Bicentennial Park. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Acting Chairperson declared the motion carried.

- Mr. Karg stated that he met with Ms. Roxie Karg regarding the need for more pickleball courts due to overcrowding and players having to wait in line to play. Mr. Karg noted that the surface of the courts in Harrison Smith Park are in bad shape and need to be improved. Ms. Roxie Karg inquired about the possibility of

lines being added to the basketball courts in Bicentennial Park to allow for additional pickleball courts. Mr. Karg explained that the Park Board members agreed at their June 8, 2026 meeting that the basketball courts in Bicentennial Park will remain solely as basketball courts in memory of Mr. Robby Lee. Mr. Karg indicated that Ms. Roxie Karg stated that she will reach out to the Lee family to discuss this matter further. Ms. Roxie Karg indicated that she would like to proceed with additional pickleball courts and improvements to the courts in Bicentennial Park including lights and the installation of a wind screen along the west side of the courts. Funding for these improvements was discussed including grants and private donors.

- Mr. Karg noted that fishing equipment has been donated to the Parks Department and he would like to install a community tackle box in Harrison Smith Park, similar to the community tackle box at the reservoir.

There being no further business, the Acting Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned.

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Jon Blackburn, Acting Chairperson