

**3/5/2025 | 6:30 PM**

**Municipal Services Center, Lower Level Conference Room  
3600 Tremont Road**

- 1. Call to Order/Roll Call**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
  - a. Approve December 11, 2024 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
- 3. Unfinished Business**
  - a. Election of Board Officers
  - b. Bob Crane Community Center Opening
  - c. Park Rules
- 4. New Business**
  - a. Planting Non-Native Trees
  - b. Play UA Update
  - c. Park Projects
- 5. Updates & Reports**
  - a. Director's Report
  - b. April Meeting at BCCC
- 6. Board Member Comments and Setting Future Agenda Items**
- 7. Adjournment**

**Wednesday, December 11, 2024**  
**6:30 pm**  
**Lower-Level Meeting Room**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by Chair Christ at 6:34pm.

**Members Present:**

  X   Sean Caine              X   Caroline O'Donnell  
  X   Lindsey Christ         X   Craig Smith  
  X   Brian Noble            X   Allison Thomas

**Staff Present:**

  X   Parks & Recreation Director Debbie McLaughlin  
  X   Administrative Assistant Brooke Bowman

**Other Staff Present:** Park Development & Arts Superintendent Jeff Anderson, Recreation Superintendent Matt Leber, Council President Ukeme Awakessien-Jeter

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Motion to approve minutes of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board from the October 28, 2024, meeting.

**Motioned:** Caine

**Seconded:** Thomas

**Board Discussion:** None

**Voting Aye:** Caine, Christ, Noble, O'Donnell, Smith, Thomas

**Abstain:** None

**Motion Passed**

**ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS- PRESENTATIONS**

**AGENDA ITEM- Introduction of Aktion Club**

Amy Flanagan the President of the Aktion Club and Mike Toomey the Northwest Kiwanis Advisor for the Club joined the Board to share of the newly formed and significance of the club. It is the only service club for disabled people in the world. (attached hereto as Exhibit A).

**AGENDA ITEM- Recognition of Board Member Mary Duchi**

Board Chair Lindsey Christ shared some words of appreciation she wrote for Mary Duchi. Council President Ukeme Awakessien-Jeter presented a proclamation to Mary Duchi in thanks for her years of service and dedication to the City of Upper Arlington. A tree will be planted next Tuesday in dedication to Mary.

## **ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS- UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **AGENDA ITEM- Bob Crane Community Center Update**

Park Development & Arts Superintendent Jeff Anderson gave a presentation on the progress at the Bob Crane Community Center and shared photos detailing the progress of the exterior and interior work (attached hereto as Exhibit B).

Director McLaughlin updated the Board on the discovery sessions that were held last month virtually and in person regarding the community center. Employment opportunities for the Community Center have been posted online.

## **ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS- NEW BUSINESS**

### **AGENDA ITEM- Board By-Laws Review**

Chair Christ and Board members discussed any changes they would like to make to the Board by-laws.

Chair Christ made a **Motion** to amend the by-laws to “Absences from three consecutive meetings or three meetings in a calendar year by any member may cause the members term to be vacated”

**Motioned:** Caine

**Seconded:** Noble

**Board Discussion:** None

**Voting Aye:** Caine, Christ, Noble, O’Donnell, Smith, Thomas

**Abstain:** None

**Motion Passed**

The Board made a note to discuss the by-laws every year in the December meeting.

### **AGENDA ITEM- Capital Improvements Program**

Park Development & Arts Superintendent Jeff Anderson presented to the Board the capital Improvement projects. For 2025 the capital projects include Fancyburg Park Master Plan, Sunny 95 Tennis Court Resurfacing, Devon Toddler Pool, Fancyburg Park Service Yard Design, Northam East Athletic Fields Design, Smith Road and Miller Bridge Replacement Design and the Community Center Call for Artists. Mr. Anderson reviewed the schedule for Fancyburg Park (attached hereto as Exhibit C).

Following the movement of the bocce courts to Thompson Park Board members suggests that Eagle Scout projects should be presented to the Board for approval, and there was a discussion about the need for more detailed discussions on the scale of projects.

### **AGENDA ITEM- 2025 Aquatic and Tennis Fee Structure**

Director McLaughlin presented the new season pass fee structure showing the 2025 Aquatics and Tennis fees aiming to simplify the process and provide a structure consistent with the community center. (attached hereto as Exhibit D).

## **ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS- Updates & Reports**

**AGENDA ITEM- Directors Report**

Director McLaughlin continued the Directors Report with the following items:

- Winterfest was last Friday and went well
- Finishing up with resident verification, the process has led to a flood of registrations and verifications, with many people confirming their residency status
- Adaptive recreation and the department's efforts to improve adaptive recreation and accommodations, working with the Upper Arlington school district. The goal is to better understand and meet the needs of participants in therapeutic recreation programs
- Website redesign, focusing on a customer-centric approach and simplifying information access. Plans are for update in March ahead of the community center opening.

**AGENDA ITEM- Board Member Comments and Setting Future Agenda Items**

- Board member Craig Smith commented how much he has enjoyed working with staff from the parks and recreation department
- Play UA update, Comparisons to other years
- Trees update on planting non-native trees
- Voting for officers in February

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motioned:** Smith

**Seconded:** Craig

**Voting Aye:** Caine, Christ, Noble, O'Donnell, Smith, Thomas

**Abstain:** None

**Motion Passed**

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:31pm**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairperson**

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Secretary**

# Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

02/12/2025



# Non-Native Trees



# Native Trees & Non-Native Trees



- Benefits
  - Why don't we use all native trees?
- Challenges specific to City Forestry:
  - Large scale operations
  - Street Trees
  - Difficult urban sites that require medium or small species trees



# Challenges

- Availability from Nurseries/Suppliers
  - Species Availability (even cultivars)
  - "Tree Form" Availability



# Challenges

- Urban sites
  - Soil
  - Exposure
  - Infrastructure



# Challenges

- Pest and Disease pressures



A Toledo street before and after EAB



# Challenges

- Habit –
  - Especially small species



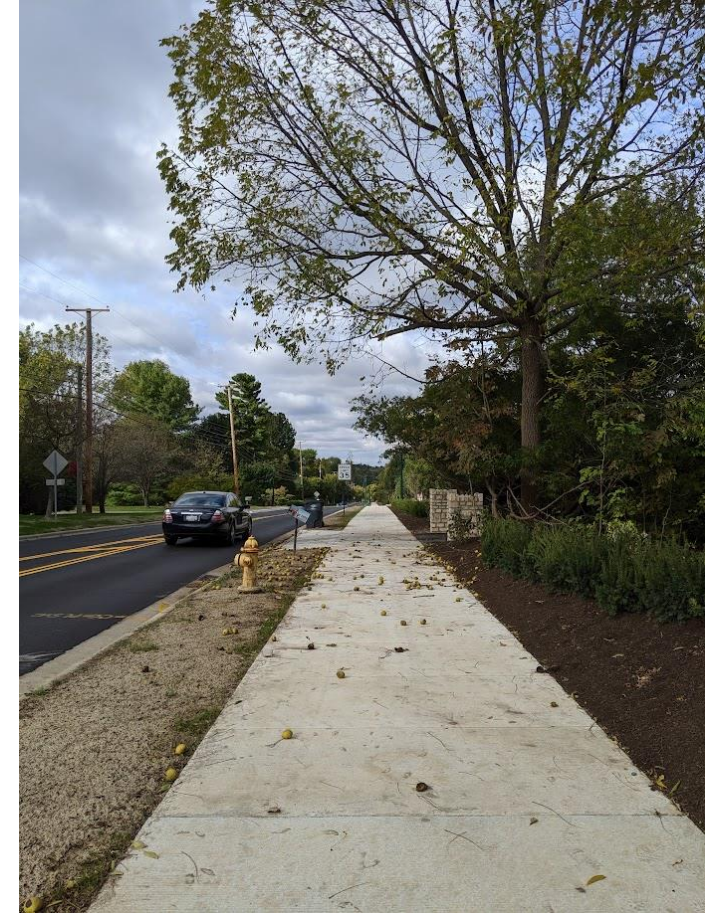
# Challenges

- Habit
  - Narrow trees are usually Non Native or Cultivars



# Challenges

- Messy
- Public Opposition or Preference



# Challenges

- Changing climate and variable weather conditions



# Ongoing and Future Efforts

- It's complicated...
- Continuing education
- Expanding our network of nurseries
- Experimenting with new planting techniques
- Exploring the possibility of growing our own natives
- Designing planting sites for trees – not “designing” trees for planting sites
  - Tree lawns
  - Soil composition
  - Structural soil, Suspended Pavement
- Tree Canopy Assessment (2025) and Urban Forestry Master Plan (2026-27)
  - Explore potential efforts and initiatives



# PLAY UA Financial Assistance



# PLAY UA Update

2023

Households = 42 (8 new) enrolled  
34 used funds

Individuals = 157

Program Revenue = \$13,912.08

Assistance Given = \$8,678.50

2024

Households = 61 (32 new) enrolled  
47 used funds

Individuals = 243

Program Revenue = \$14,953.31

Assistance Given = \$12,303.75



# PLAY UA – 2024 Revenue Breakdown

Revenue= \$14,953.31

\$1 Transaction Fee = \$9,503

Vending Commissions = \$815.31

Donations = \$4,635



# PLAY UA – Assistance Highlights

377 programs enrollments or memberships in which the discount was utilized (127 in 2023)

Assistance Given = \$12,303.75

Aquatics = \$9,174.25 (\$6,406 in memberships, \$2,756.25 in lessons)

Recreation = \$2,548

Senior = \$169

Safety Town= \$62.50

Tennis=\$350

Cultural Arts = \$0

**2024 – increase assistance for Swim Lessons from 50% to 75%**

