

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

6:30 pm

Lower-Level Meeting Room

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Chair Christ at 6:50pm.

Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

 X Parks & Recreation Director Debbie McLaughlin
 Administrative Assistant Brooke Bowman

Other Staff Present: Recreation Superintendent Matt Leber, Parks & Forestry Superintendent Sam Simmons

Motion to excuse Craig Smith from the March 5, 2025, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

Motioned: Noble

Seconded: Thomas

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

Abstain: None

Motion Passed

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board from the December 11, 2024, meeting.

Motioned: Noble

Seconded: Thomas

Board Discussion: None

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

Abstain: None

Motion Passed

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS- UNFINISHED BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM- Election of Board Officers

Sean Caine nominated Lindsey Christ as Chairman of the Board. There being no further nominations offered, the nominations for Chairman are declared closed and called for vote.

Motioned: Caine

Seconded: Noble

Board Discussion: None

Voting Aye: Caine, Christ, Noble, O'Donnell, Thomas all in favor of electing Lindsey Christ as Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Abstain: None

Motion Passed

Sean Caine nominated Caroline O'Donnell as Vice Chairman of the Board. There being no further nominations offered, the nominations for Vice Chairman are declared closed and called for vote.

Motioned: Caine

Seconded: Noble

Board Discussion: None

Voting Aye: Caine, Christ, Noble, O'Donnell, Thomas all in favor of electing Caroline O'Donnell as Vice Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Abstain: None

Motion Passed

AGENDA ITEM- Bob Crane Community Center Opening

Director McLaughlin went over the grand opening highlights for the Bob Crane Community Center. Followed by a Recreation update from Recreation Superintendent Matt Leber (attached hereto as Exhibit A). Director McLaughlin updated the Board on Silver Sneakers and Renew Active as a method to cover the cost of membership.

AGENDA ITEM-Park Rules

Director McLaughlin

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS- NEW BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM- Planting Non-Native Trees

Parks & Forestry Superintendent Sam Simmons presented to the board a PowerPoint about the planting of Non-Native and Native trees in the parks (attached hereto as Exhibit B). Sam mentioned the City will conduct an Urban Tree Canopy Study and update the Urban Forestry Master Plan along with the City Master Plan process scheduled to begin in 2026. Board members indicated that this information is helpful as they better understand our approach.

AGENDA ITEM- Play UA Update

Director McLaughlin reviewed the 2024 and 2023 Play UA Financial Assistance numbers with the Board. (attached hereto as Exhibit C). The program continues to grow in participation and revenue to fund financial assistance. Staff will monitor usage related to the community center to see how usage and revenue generation align.

AGENDA ITEM- Park Projects

Director McLaughlin updated the Board on amendments City Council may when approving the Park Rules (CO 543.02) changes. The two items changed were: 1) Section A12 - removing the proposed restriction on motorized transportation devices in parks; and 2) Section A15 - changing the rule to not feed or provide food to “waterfowl” to “wildlife” for a broader restriction. All other proposed amendments were passed.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS- Updates & Reports

AGENDA ITEM- Directors Report

Director McLaughlin continued the Directors Report with the following items:

- Chair Lindsey Christ provided an update on a Board and Department update to Council last month
- Board position renewal process application will open soon. There is also an opportunity for resident to serve on a City Master Plan Task Force, which will also include a new Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

AGENDA ITEM- Board Member Comments and Setting Future Agenda Items

Starting in April meetings will move to the Bob Crane Community Center Board Room

- Summer hiring
- Fancyburg Masterplan process
- Temporary Art Installation
- Middle School Planning process involving parks

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned: O’Donnell

Seconded: Noble

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

Abstain: None

Motion Passed

Meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm

Chairperson

ATTEST: _____



Bob Crane Community Center

BOB CRANE COMMUNITY CENTER GRAND OPENING HIGHLIGHTS

Join us as we celebrate the grand opening of the Bob Crane Community Center. Beginning March 25, visit and tour the facility, learn about memberships, amenities, programs, and our partner services.

Membership Pass Pre-Sales

Begins Monday, March 10

Purchase your Bob Crane Community Center membership passes ahead of opening day. Memberships can be purchased online (at parks.uaoh.net) or in person (at the Municipal Services Center or UA Senior Center).

Onsite Tours & Membership Pass Sales

Tuesday, March 25-Saturday, March 29

8 am-8 pm T-F, 8 am-1 pm Saturday

Visit uacommunitycenter.com to register for facility tours, or stop by for more information and to purchase your membership.

Preview the Community Center

Tuesday April 1-Thursday, April 3 | 9 am-Noon & 3-7 pm

*(*Tuesday, April 1 morning session reserved for older adults)*

Saturday, April 5 | 8 am-4 pm

While our staff completes training in advance of opening day, we have scheduled a series of preview sessions, which include the use of various facility amenities and demonstration classes. While the facility is open to explore and enjoy, visit uacommunitycenter.com for a list of drop-in activities.

Don't Miss Our "Sunday Celebration!"

Bob Crane Community Center

Grand Opening

Sunday April 6 | 4 pm Ribbon Cutting

Facility Open 4:30-8 pm

Following our ribbon cutting celebration, we invite you to explore the Community Center to enjoy activities, refreshments, tours, and more!

Business As Usual!

Begins Monday, April 7 | 5:30 am-10 pm

All Programs/Classes Move to the Bob Crane Community Center

The doors open first thing Monday, April 7 for daily operations.



Community Center Staffing

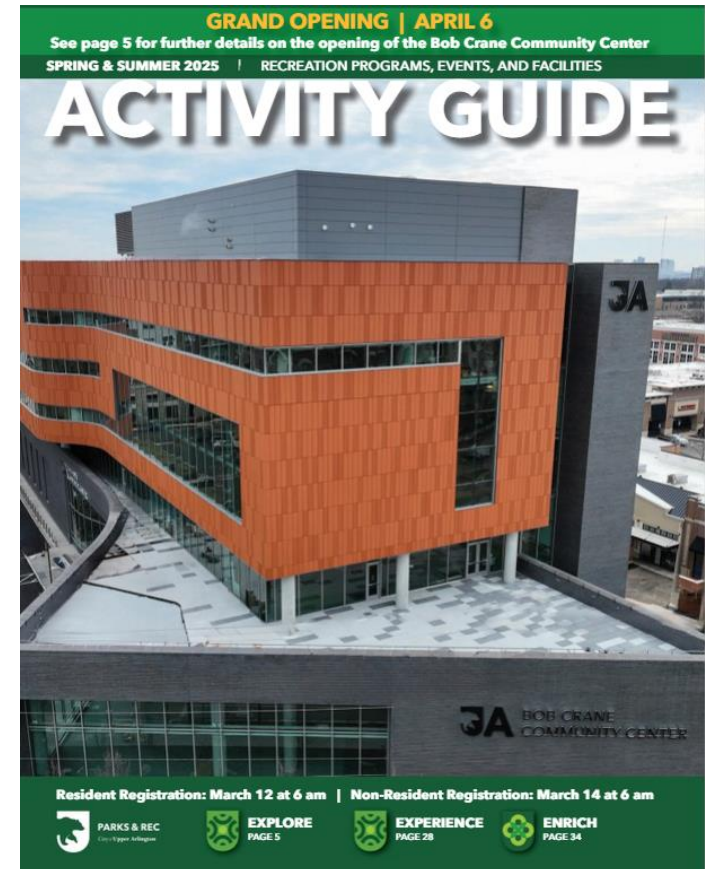
- First Kickoff Training: 3/3/25
 - 115 Employees going through onboarding and training process



Recreation Programming Update

Spring-Summer Activity Guide

- 112 pages, largest guide in recent years
- Registration
 - March 12, 6am for Residents and BCCC Members
 - March 14, 6am for Non-Residents
- New Programming made possible by the Bob Crane Community Center
- Traditional Spring-Summer programming at our parks and other city facilities



Summer Camps

Summer Day Camp 2025

- Added Fourth Day Camp location for 2025
- 4th and final location sold out within 2 hours
- 390 total participants registered, increased participants served by 100
- 29 unique registrants on the waitlist

Several half-day camp opportunities available for registration on 3/12



New Programming at the BCCC

A taste of some of the new program opportunities made possible by the BCCC

- Indoor Aquatics Programming
 - Learn to Swim (All Ages), Sculpt, Aqua Zumba, & Sculpt Flow(Aqua Yoga)
- Filmmaking 101 (youth & adult)
- Hip Hop classes and Ballet classes (youth & adult)
- Creative Fashion Lab
- Art Exploration
- Cooking Demonstration Programs
- Cubs Corner – Toddler Open Gym
- Pickleball
- New Group Exercise Programs
 - Body Blast Bootcamp, Sunrise Flow, Evening Glow Yoga, TRX 101, Barre Fusion, Kettlebell 101, Take a Seat to the Beat, Ladies Who Lift
- 5 Personal Trainers working with all ages and abilities



Northam Tennis and Pickleball

- Ribbon Cutting for new courts and service building
 - Thursday, May 1 at 4:00pm
- Tennis
 - League play:
 - Scheduled league play (19 Teams in 2025, compared to 17 in 2024)
 - 6 or fewer courts at a time
 - Added time block for 8:30 – 10 under lights for more available court time

Pickleball

- Court reservation system (free) from 8am – 8pm daily from April to October
 - Open play at all other times
- Programs are split between Northam and hybrid courts at Fancyburg and Thompson



Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

02/12/2025



PARKS & REC
City of Upper Arlington

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



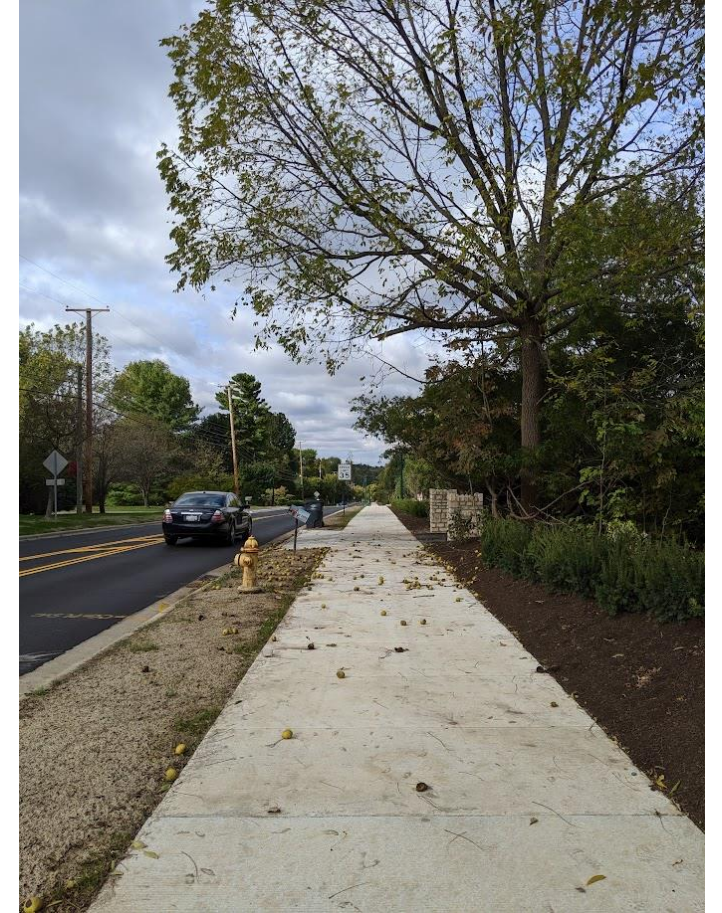
Challenges

- 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%

