

Canal Winchester

*Town Hall
10 North High Street
Canal Winchester, OH 43110*



Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

April 29, 2019

6:00 PM

City Council

*Bruce Jarvis – President
Mike Walker – Vice President
Jill Amos
Will Bennett
Bob Clark
Mike Coolman
Patrick Lynch*

A. Call To Order

Call to order @ 6:00 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present 6 – Amos, Bennett, Coolman, Jarvis, Lynch, Walker

Absent 1 – Clark

A motion was made by Walker to excuse Mr. Clark, seconded by Coolman. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 6 – Walker, Coolman, Amos, Bennett, Jarvis, Lynch

C. Also In Attendance

Mayor Ebert, Matt Peoples

D. Items for Discussion**19-034**

Joint Recreation District Presentations

- Andy Wildman, Executive Director, Granville Joint Recreation District
- Kristopher Myers, Superintendent, Bellefontaine Joint Recreation District

Bennett: Thank you Mr. Jarvis, I would also like to welcome our guests – Andy Wildman from Granville Joint Rec, and Mr. Kris Myers from Bellefontaine Joint Rec; what I'm going to do is a quick overview of the Canal Winchester Joint Recreation; the current founding bodies for the Canal Winchester Joint Rec is the City of Canal Winchester and Canal Winchester local schools; our current org chart – we have a board of trustees, the board appoints a chair and a vice-chair; the rec director reports to the board chair, and the fiscal officer both report to the board chair; the program commissioners report to the rec director; off to the side there, I sort of provided a little color-coding chart; we have the recreation director – they are the only actual employee for the Joint Rec District; the fiscal officer is under contract, and everyone else serving the organization is a volunteer; with that, currently we have approximately 19-21 sports programs; of those programs – these are numbers from 2018; we had 19 sports programs, of the 19 programs we had – I apologize for the typo in your packets, that's supposed to be participants – we had 1,974 participants; to run those sports, we had well over 500 volunteers; that's my quick overview; what I'd like to do is have Mr. Andy Wildman come up and sort of give you the introduction to his portion of the presentation; unless there are any questions for me at this point in time, I'm happy to take those.

Andy Wildman, Granville Joint Recreation: I haven't had the chance to talk in front of these (microphones) in awhile; thank you for having me, I always love the opportunity to get together and talk about public recreation; it's something I'm extremely passionate about; I'm like the Granville version of Lesley Knope – anyone watch Parks & Recreation? Here is one of our formation documents – we were formed by Granville schools, the Granville township, and the Granville village; the Rec District was formed in 2009; one of the challenges before that – public parks were provided in Granville through a 501(c)(4) arm of the township; they had a half-mil operating levy in 2005; they increased that to a 1-mil permanent operating levy; the Rec District did not have bonding power or taxing authority, and it did not represent what the community was in Granville as it was growing; they had lots of folks coming with all

kinds of great ideas, asking 'would you consider ?, or lax, or build this stadium, build this pool, do this or do that'; their concern was that they did not have any control over their budget, or over their funding; the township collected that 1-mil permanent operating levy, and they kept the portion for maintenance, and for administrative things that they did to support the 501(c)(4) rec commission; the rest was given to a 15-person board that was a volunteer group that did capital and provided programming; traditionally, it was a husband and wife team that ran the rec commission out of their house; that kind of blows my mind – when I got there in 2010, people were just getting used to not bringing their stuff to someone's garage, or signing up in someone's living room, which is really unique and not what I'm used to from a government standpoint; as they decided and looked for what they should do, and how they should provide public parks and recreation in our community – they went to all 3 of our partners and said 'do you want to have a public parks department?'; they went to the schools and said 'do you want to be a public parks provider?'; all 3 of those groups said no, they did not want to have an official public parks department underneath of them; they would however – they thought it was a good idea – to create the Joint Rec District, to expand our boundaries to match the schools, which is our largest jurisdiction boundary in our community, from a taxation standpoint; all 3 of those entities passed resolutions in 2009, and created the Granville Recreation District; that Fall, they passed a 1-mil permanent operating levy that cancelled out the township's 1-mil permanent operating levy, and replaced it; it was an increase, just based on jurisdiction; some areas of Union Township and some areas in Newark that are part of the school district, but are not part of the township or not part of the village were now included; from that point on, anyone in the school district – which is how my children see Granville – they don't see the kids that go to school with them but 'Blue Aces', whether they live in Newark or Union Township or any other places; from that point on, anyone who lived in the school district was a resident of the Granville Recreation District; we were considered our community's public parks provider; all of those entities have done a really good job of supporting us; we really see ourselves as a very traditional public parks department in Granville; one of our favorite sayings is that we don't cherry pick when we are the parks department; we expect the village, the township and the schools to support us, and they do a great job of that; any time they call and ask us to manage a facility for them, or to run a program for them, the answer is yes; we run 12 middle school sports for the schools; we run those cost-neutral plus 10 percent – it's been a huge help for the schools, because some of those programs now they don't have to run; in return, it's our expectation that all of the programs that are going on from a recreation and youth sports standpoint run through the recreation district, so that we don't get our knees sawed off; it's hard for us to control what's going on if we can't control the facilities; they have been great – everything that runs athletically youth-sport-wise runs through our Granville Rec, and those facilities are not available to anyone besides us first; we have 3,500 kids playing youth sports, so we don't have enough facilities to go around; it's been really helpful for them to do that; when I talk about commitment – we really have commitment from everyone in the community to support us, and then for us to support the community with the best services that we can; our mission, really simple: to develop, manage, and coordinate recreational, educational, social and cultural athletic activities for citizens of all ages within the Granville Recreation District in an efficient, effective and sustainable manner; we have been able to do that, we have not gone back to the ballot since 2005; we did get an increase when our jurisdiction changed from Granville Township in 2009 to what it is now, through matching the school district; we have not increased our millage since then; we have been able to roll out the Rec District with that – we probably did about a million dollars' worth of capital projects within our parks; we've built out our staff in a way that we are now able to meet the expectations from a programming standpoint, and to be able to manage the growth that we have; we're getting to the point where we are soon going to outgrow

what our current operating levy is; we've had about 30-35% growth across the board every year, from a programming and from a budget standpoint; one thing that I think we have done a really good job of is our cost recovery models, with all of our program; making sure that we are cost recovering – it's tough to catch up when you aren't charging the appropriate price; in some communities - Kris and I were talking earlier – in some communities it's different, and every community is different; previous to being in Granville, I was the parks director for the City of Barberton; I could not charge the fees that I charge in Granville in Barberton; the residents could not have paid those; I'm fortunate and blessed to be able to charge the fees to cost recover for all of those programs; when I started in 2010, our budget was less than \$500,000; this year, it will be \$850,000; a lot of that is just cost recovery, and making sure that we are charging the appropriate price for all of the programs; we do a fairly good job of sharing that with our residents – I say fairly, I think we do a great job, but sometimes they don't think we do a good job – just explaining how our fees are setup, what the fees cover, where all of that money goes; from a fee standpoint, one of the things that is kind of one of our go-to phrases is if we have a coach or an instructor, and we have residents who want to participate in something, and we have a facility to do it, we will do it, every time, we will not say no; that has really helped us, because the community knows that we will facilitate anything from a recreational standpoint.

Wildman: This was our org chart when I started in 2010; we had a really small office, that was a huge change for me; I was blessed to have a program director who was the director of the 501(c)(4); Lesa stayed on board, and I have been able to work with her – it was unique sharing an office like that with 3 people, I hadn't done that; I was able to learn so much about the community, and so much about the programming; I could answer questions on the phone, I was learning; as we sit today, it looks more like this; we were allotting about \$100,000 a year for capital; capital becomes maintenance every time; we've done a really nice job, I think, of planning how we were going to take care of our facilities as we built them out; we're kind of split up right now into 3 silos, underneath me we have a youth sports director, a program director, and a maintenance director; there will probably be some changes coming in the near future with some of that; we just lost our youth sports program assistant, they took the job at Grandview Heights – really happy for Mitch, but tough for us for where we are located to find strong part-time people that can take a 30+ hour job; we keep losing them, we lost one to Groveport, and lost Mitch; probably going to have to redo this; this is a pretty good setup for us right now; some huge advantages from my perspective to Joint Recreation Districts – like I said, I worked 10 years for the City of Barberton, and the last 6 I was the parks director there – some of the things that we really think help with the Joint Recreation District is taxation boundaries can be really difficult; if one entity is providing subsidization for services, and that does not match who is receiving the services, one group can feel like they are getting financially shorted; 'we pay taxes for this, we are the city, but everyone else gets to enjoy the services'; that is one thing that is a huge advantage – being able to issue your own bonds, and your own taxation; collecting those is a massive advantage; our board is great – we have 5 folks; one person is appointed by each of our 3 strategic partners that created us, and 2 are at large; their focus is just recreation, and their focus is just recreational needs for the community, and capital; we are extremely flexible, much more flexibility than I would have had when I worked at the City of Barberton; our funding source is autonomous, so I don't have to 'fight' with the police and fire – I would not 'fight' with the police and fire – but everyone around the table when it is time to talk budget, and it is very tough to win the battle of how parks and recreation is going to be funded in comparison to safety or other needs; all of the services that cities provide are important; to have our own dedicated source, just for parks and recreation, is really a big deal for us; multiple jurisdictions become one; I think in our community, the rec and the schools are really what folks feel that Granville is, and have really helped us

get over the hump from traditionally the village of Granville or the township being Granville; I feel like we have kind of forged ahead, and it is now more of we all are Blue Aces; some of the history of how those boundaries didn't always get along, or always feel like they are part of the same team, we have been able to break down some of those barriers.

Wildman: What's next for us? We are growing, and still continuing to grow, and it's getting difficult for us to exist within our current subsidization; big-picture-wise we are working on a land lease with Denison University; the university is going to lease us 20 acres – we have a meeting with President Weinberg and the CFO David English here in the next couple of weeks; we are going to do a public/private partnership, and build a 70,000 square foot community wellness center; that is what we are working on right now; really exciting, we haven't publicly announced that, hopefully someone is not looking at the minutes here – we're working through those; it's very hard to keep a secret in our community, everyone talks about it on the street; some people know as we work through it that you can only keep it quiet for so long; we are working towards it – we really have a shortage from a facility standpoint; we just don't have the facilities to meet the expectations of our community from a programming standpoint; we are really excited about that, we are hoping to raise a significant amount of money so that we can lower – so the public side of that partnership can be as small as it can be; obviously every community has voter fatigue and tax fatigue; nobody ever wakes up and wants to pay more taxes; that is what is on our plate next, and we are really excited about it – hopefully it comes to fruition.

Kris Myers, Bellefontaine Joint Recreation: Thank you for having me, as Andy said, this is something we are both passionate about; I first met Andy when he was a lifeguard for the City of St. Clairsville, Ohio in 1998; at that point, I was a college student at Bowling Green; Andy was at Ohio University; it's amazing how you meet somebody through a family friend, and we're 20+ years later, and still passionate about some of the very same things; the Bellefontaine Joint Rec District – we are a little different than either of you; we were a traditional parks and recreation department for the city of Bellefontaine from – we had our first director hired shortly after the Korean War; I am the 3rd director since then; it's kind of a cool position to be in, we have some longevity and some history; my predecessor started in 1984, when the Joint Rec District was formed; we were formed between the City of Bellefontaine, and the Bellefontaine City Schools; we are in another unique – where I grew up in northwest Ohio, our school district spread way out, and caught 3 villages – the City of Bellefontaine, the schools stretch outside of the corporation limits, but not very far; we don't get a lot of the animosity with – if you live outside, you're still working in the city; there is very few that aren't paying a city income tax; we don't have our own dedicated money; we operate very similar to what a city department would operate; the reason we formed the Joint Rec District was about facilities; Bellefontaine city school was in a growth period, needed some additional facilities; to do a grant application is what really form the joint rec district; that formation, though, has created all kinds of great opportunities where the schools and the joint rec district work together; that's kind of unique, how that is setup.

Myers: Just a quick budget overview – we are funded with a city transfer to the Joint Rec District; this year, it's \$492,000; that is significant, but some things that go into that – the schools put in \$30,500 a year; of the city's \$492,000 there, \$30,000 goes for that one facility that's dedicated as shared; the reality is, we share everything back and forth; I have alarm codes and master keys to every school building; nothing is allowed to go, just like Andy said, to another entity until we have said 'no, we are good, we don't need the facility for that time'; that's really part of the relationship that makes it work; I don't pay rental fees for school buildings, I don't pay custodian fees; it's built into how it works; we're really blessed – that is where the Joint Rec District is so powerful for us, is leveraging of facilities; as I go

on here, I'll explain some other ways that that happens; we also operate a municipal swimming pool, so you can see where we are generating revenue through that; you have to understand that part of the dynamic of our community is that we are well over 50% free and reduced lunch when you look at our school population; I don't know that anyone else in the state of Ohio has lower user fees than we do, which is really unique; when Andy and I started talking, it was really interesting – they built their structure on cost recovery, and with how far back our department goes, there is an expectation that there is a service provided; we don't pay for administering leagues, but we don't charge any facility fees; we actually do facility maintenance when it comes to soccer fields, baseball fields – I lined a softball field today, because we are still waiting on seasonal staff to roll in; those things are all part of how this all works; we have a couple other pieces – we also operate the City of Bellefontaine cemetery; the beauty of going through – I started in 2005, so I'm in year 15 now at the Joint Rec District; I was hired as a cost-cutting measure when my predecessor retired in 2005; we were in the middle of a huge financial downturn in our community at that point; we rallied a little bit, and then the economic downturn of '08 – I got really good at saying 'yeah, we will take that on'; from a perspective of 'we'll take it on, and we'll make it work', we operate the cemetery now, we took that on 6 years ago; we have saved the city about \$60,000 a year, for 6 years, which is valid; I have great staff that make it work, we are all a part of a team; we have this really unique relationship right now where everyone kind of garners together to make things happen; that's probably the thing that I would share that is the most powerful – kind of like Andy said – it's coming together; you're dealing with 3 government entities; the street department is pouring concrete for me right now, because we're going to do it in the Fall with our staff, it's Spring and we don't have time – they said 'hey, let us help you out'; it's really cool, that dynamic; our budget this year – you'll see about \$775,000 total; that includes the cemetery operation; we mow everything citywide; if it's the water department's property, we mow some right-of-way that's finish-mowed; that was another thing – we took, in '08, took on the mowing citywide; we replaced 12 pieces of mowing equipment citywide, and bought 3; we didn't add one man hour to what we were already doing; I'm going to say this – we hire retired guys – they are making \$10.55 an hour this year, and they love it; we went from paying full-time employees to mow, we went from having 12 pieces of mow equipment citywide to take care of; these are the kind of things that we can leverage when we are all a team player; that's the concept I come to you with; our organizational chart – you can see we are a 7 member board – 3 are appointed by the schools, 3 are appointed by the city and mayor, and the 7th is appointed by the other 6; that's kind of a unique setup there; that's 7 bosses, which can be good, and I've been blessed in my time; under myself, I've got a recreation education coordinator who has grown just amazingly; she has been with me since I came to town, she was a 4 hour a week secretary with an education degree; she has stayed home with her kids, and come back to work part-time, and she is now in charge of youth sports, and all of our nature education; it's amazing how people grow with you as well, I think you have some similarities; I have a maintenance coordinator, and a maintenance staff; we have 17 city parks within the City of Bellefontaine; that's about 173 acres, plus we mow everything else; 12 softball and baseball fields, 11 soccer fields – these are the statistics we are working with – we are a community of just shy of 14,000 people; I don't know, what's your population? Wildman: About the same; Myers: Canal – 8,000? That's the part that hopefully you can figure out how to leverage that, the school district part of it; that's a lot more people, and that's who you're serving; the other interesting piece is we do not have a county park district; Logan county has some of the most beautiful terrain there is in this state, and we do not have a county park district; 5 years ago, we were approached by a group saying 'we need you to buy what was a girl scout camp'; 453 acre property, this was in the middle of the economic downturn, they said '\$2 million dollars, you got it'; I did my best, she was a really sweet lady from Lima,

Ohio; I said we didn't have the money to operate what we are doing now; she said 'well I appreciate that', and I said 'if there is anything I can ever do...'; we now own 453 acres 7 miles outside of our jurisdiction, and we do that with 0 tax dollars operating that facility; we 100% cost recover that facility; it's a nature preserve, it was bought with Clean Ohio funds, and it's really worked out well, it's been a really dynamic expansion for us; the reason we have it is because there was nobody else to take it; the township said 'we're not interested', there was nobody at the county level; they came to us, and I went to our city council, and they really bought in – they saw that it wouldn't cost us anything, it was a donation to the city; we have taken that, it was a turn-key park – 453 acres with a lodge building, a programming building, it has shelter houses and trails on it; it was built for – if we didn't do it, it was going to become a private hunting preserve; by taking that on, we've brought more people and the possibility for more dollars to that facility, because the township, the people that live there, some of the county entities, we get some support from Honda for different things; it's really been a cool piece where we now are in the wedding business; we are the place for weddings of less than 100 people in Logan county; it's just really interesting, it's taking whatever those resources are, and being what your community needs; our community needed us to become a nature center as well; my recreation and education coordinator took that education degree, and she teaches one Saturday a month – we have a nature education program that we have between 35-40 people at, kids and adults; they really love it, it's been a cool and dynamic piece of what we do; we operate the pool at about a \$40,000 a year loss, covered by our general fund transfer; that is something that our council – 'I said we will keep rates where they are' and they said yes, that it's more important to them that the fees are low – it's \$3.50 for a day pass, and for a family of 4 it's \$115 for a year-long membership; our fees are crazy, but it's what our community wants, and that's what our leaders want as well; we're happy to try and oblige, but we've got some challenges coming ahead as well; this is kind of some of the stuff that we are trying to do, I don't think they're that important; I think we have 9 sports that we offer, some of them are through associations – they all register through us and our software; it's an encompassing recreation program; we are also very important in managing our parks as well; our biggest challenge is capital funding, and when I say capital funding, I'm talking about capital repair and maintenance funding; we can operate where we're at with minimal growth perfectly fine; we are talking about park facilities that – we built a new park in 2000; it was an additional 48 acre park with 4 additional baseball diamonds and soccer fields and whatnot; even with that being 20 years old now, I'm pretty sure we can spend a million dollars on asphalt, and I'd still have asphalt to do; we are in that position right now where we have to determine what we are going to do as a Joint Rec District; in our situation, it's how we are going to do this as a city, and as a community; we have other challenges, we need about 2 new fire trucks, probably about \$2 million – are we going to go out and do an income tax for capital that includes everything, or are we going to do something that's just a tax initiative for the Joint Rec District? Our pool that we operate is now in its 51st year, and it's about lived its life; we have all of these challenges, and that's what they all are right now; we have embraced them, because we are blessed with a community with people that really enjoy what we do; we are happy to be a part of that, and hopefully some of what we have said today can be beneficial to you guys as well; what's next for Canal Winchester? I think that is the beauty of what you guys get to work on now; I think Andy and I really enjoyed the chance to come out and share what we do; both of us would be happy to answer any questions you have of us and what we do, and how we do it; it's something we are definitely passionate about.

Coolman: I have a question for both of you – you both mentioned that your big target coming up is seeking outside funding for your expenditures, if you can't get it through other sources; what types of targets are you going after for funding? Is it outside of corporate, is it big corporate, is it local? What

types of sources are you going to? Myers: I have 3 projects going right now that are – we've been very successful in a couple of grant applications; we are working – we have a community initiative right now where we are building a new \$300,000 inclusive playground, and all of those are pretty much all being done without any tax dollars; I think the city is matching a small Nature Works grant, we got a total of \$88,000, so the city is putting in \$22,000 towards that \$300,000; that's where I think we are challenged is – we have went to our community for a lot over the last couple of years; I feel like I have been asking people for money incessantly for the past 3 years, and it's not sustainable, to continue to go back to – we have great relationships, our hospital and the foundation is very kind to us; we can only continue down that path – it's just not sustainable; we are looking at how to figure out some long-term capital needs sustainability, for projects that are from anything \$25,000 really when it comes to repair and maintenance; we need to get some dedicated money for that; operations – as long as everyone buys into what our method is, I feel really good about that.

Wildman: Yeah, that's where we're at, too; we are in a place where I think our donor fatigue might be just as much as our voter fatigue; last year, we raised over \$500,000 from scratch, to build a new playground; we are very proud of that project, we had 3,600 volunteer shifts that we filled to build it as a community build; fantastic project, lots of work, super happy that it's done; what we're probably going to look at next is some private fundraising from a partnership perspective; we think that there's an opportunity for partners to be in the community wellness facility, whether it's a medical provider who is offering PTOT and sports medicine, maybe there is an urgent care who wants to be there, maybe it's a pediatrician, maybe it's Subway; we're going to have 3 basketball courts, an indoor green turf field; we'll really be able to drive some traffic to it; if that project comes to fruition, I think we will have a really exciting business opportunity for some medical providers; we've also worked with the Granville Community Foundation, too; we are in the same position that Kris is – you feel bad continuing to ask the same people 'hey, would you like to buy a brick?'; how many bricks do folks want, you know? Coolman: Who approaches your sources – do you guys have a team of marketers, or is it yourselves? Myers: We've actually created our own tool that we finally just got off the ground officially January 1st; the playground project is kind of outside of that – our board of DD was very involved in that project with that; our board of DD has kicked some money towards it from the perspective of they've put some money up, but we're only going to use a piece of that, and do some grants – our goal with the group that we are associated with is to have an inclusive playground in every little community in our county; we have actually developed our own foundation; we have the Bellefontaine Parks and Recreation Foundation tool that is off the ground; we are using that tool for soliciting our other – we are actually doing a project at Myeera that is a stairway boardwalk that we have gotten the grant for that's about 75%, we just have to match 25% for it, so we are raising \$65,000 for this; we're running that through the foundation, and that's been a really great tool for us; we've got commitments already from our rural electric provider, our United Waste has come on for that with some of their funds, they've been benefitting the hospital foundation, and then several business pieces are helping make that happen as well; that's another tool that we have in hand; I'm fortunate – one of our foundation board members that's also on our Joint Rec District board recently retired from a large construction company; Pat has ties – he is in meetings with the Huntington foundation in Columbus, and some different things that we are hoping – we've already seen some doors open because of who we knew; Wildman: We've been really fortunate as well, anytime we are doing something like that, we have a system – if it's a small ask, we will allow volunteers to make that; our fundraising for our playground, which is half a million dollars, was led by Matt Miller, who is the president for Heartland National Bank; Matt could get us into a room that I could not get us into; we have been really fortunate to have someone like that, who has young kids, who has invested into the

community, who has coached baseball, softball, and basketball teams, and who has been able to get us into those meetings; Myers: We are happy to help sell it – I've been in this community for 15 years, and I'm still not from Bellefontaine; that's kind of a piece that you go up against, and that's okay; we love the community, and this is home for us; it's that piece of having that relationship to get you into the door, and have those conversations; the other challenge that I have found is I feel like I have become a solicitor of money, and that's not the best thing for our agency, for me to be doing that; there is other things – Andy is talking about strategic planning – I've been saying strategic planning for 15 years, and I still haven't gotten it done; between the day-to-day, and these different pieces, I have to figure out how to do better; Wildman: That's been a huge thing for us, too, being able to stack our organization; early on, I can't take 3,600 registrations of youth sport phone calls – I don't know if anyone has talked to a really angry mom about kindergarten soccer – you're on the phone for at least an hour, maybe 2; Myers: And you're still taking those calls – Wildman: I'm still taking them, there are just other steps to get to me now; from a customer service standpoint, the other thing is that there are a couple of situations that a couple of folks had some ideas, and our promises weren't aligned; now I make sure that I'm in all of those meetings, at least the ones that are more than just a basketball.

Jarvis: I have a couple of questions – you may have answered this, I just lost the details – you talked about your physical assets, your buildings and grounds, in both cases, you own that outright? Myers: Actually, the Bellefontaine Joint Recreation District owns no property – Wildman: Ditto – Myers: We own no property; when the JRD was formed, the ordinance from the city, as well as the school board resolution, puts the JRD in charge of all operations and management decisions for those properties; I don't have to go to council if we are talking about – we took out a ball field, it was an old ball field that wasn't getting used anymore, it looked worse with weeds growing in it; our board has the ability to make those changes, without having to go to – granted, my door is about 50 feet from the service safety director and the mayor, and I meet with them about on a daily basis; as much as we are a JRD, we are also a department of the city; they are also not my boss, we are much more collaborative; I think it creates a really good dynamic from a Parks & Recreation standpoint, because we work together; I don't feel like I'm dictated to; it's all of those different pieces.

Wildman: We don't own anything, it's the same thing – I love talking to our superintendent about our gym problem; it's his gym problem, not mine; we manage all of those; we're very open, we're always telling them what we are going to do, we go to meetings and give updates, and ask if there are things that they see that they would like us to do, things they might be hearing; we just try to make sure that there is a really open line of communication; we're making sure that we are meeting their expectations, as they are public parks.

Jarvis: To clarify – if you have a leaky roof in a fieldhouse, you are not on the hook to fix that, you just have to report it? Wildman: We are – if we would construct some type of community center, yes, we would be; if there is a leaky roof in the high school basketball gym that we use for our programming, we do not fix that; any of the parks – cut the grass, do the ball diamonds – Myers: Restroom roofs, shelter house roofs – anything that's in a park, we take care of; the school facility part, no, this is just a part of the community getting to fully use their buildings; it's an opportunity – we started a winter walking program in our elementary school, because there was no place to walk inside; that has become – it was through one of our county initiatives; we are doing it at Indian Lakes school and Bellefontaine – two neighboring school districts; it's all staffed by volunteers – they love it from the perspective of the building getting used at night; I've had basketball issues where they were in a gym, and they broke the gym teacher's CD player – I go buy them another CD player right away; we did it during our time, it's

taken care of; we are doing those things, because that's the right thing to do; if it's a major issue, that's a school issue; they're going to have to fix it with capital dollars whether we were there or not.

Jarvis: Thank you, one other question – both of you shared that you have the latitude to have vision and follow up on that, apply for grants and things like that; when it comes to professional services, like legal or an engineer, whose dime is that? Myers: That's another place where I'm really lucky; we are very different; whether it's right, wrong, or indifferent; in many instances, we are treated like a city department; my office is in the city building, I'm across the hall from the engineer's office; our main office door and my office door – I open it, and the ladies in the auditor's office look at me, because they know I want something; the auditor's office does all of our – we're treated in the financial system as a city department, it's really unique; does it make sense a lot of times, no, but we are a separate fund; the JRD fund shows up – if you get a budget print-out, you see my budget in there, just the same; it goes through the budget process, just like any other city department; when it comes to how we spend, our board – if they say this is what we want to do, this is the funds it's going to take – I get it, I'm down the hall, on a daily basis we communicate on these things; we've built the relationships where it's worked; I email the city law director, who also has kids in all of our programs; he responds and says 'yeah, I'll look into that'; we were a department before we were a JRD, and this is just a tool to be used to continue what we were doing, if that makes sense.

Wildman: For us, we are using all of our own services; we have a salaried person who does our financials, who is our fiscal officer; we get a great deal for that service, we are very fortunate that one of the rec district founding fathers is also a tax attorney, and has his MBA; he is very passionate about the rec, he continues to serve in that capacity; it's only costing us \$12,000 a year, we're getting a crazy steal with that; I'm hoping that never changes; we have, from a legal service standpoint, we have somebody on retainer; I found someone who is awesome, and who is very community-minded; when we get in a pinch, and we need to do something, we are only paying an hourly rate; Myers: I truly believe that if the city was going to say tomorrow 'hey, we are going to create this separation', we would say okay, and embrace whatever change; I could go to our community, and I could have our large attorney firm say 'yeah, we'll make it work'; we have several CPA's that have gotten to a pretty good size in our community; one of them does some good work – we actually have 2 501(C)(3)'s with us, and they do the work on that; I'm sure there would be some fees, but it would not be holding us back; it's the community piece, that's what everybody embraces, that concept.

Mayor: Do you rent any facilities outside of the city, or anything that's not city-owned? Myers: Do we use them for our programs, is that the question? I rent out facilities for use; we rent our baseball and softball fields, I rent out to some different travel organizations; none of our in-house organizations pay anything, and they get first come, first serve; there will never be a rec game pushed aside because we are renting out a facility, that's just the expectation; our revenue for that nature preserve is run by rentals that we generate; we're generating about \$25,000 in rental revenue at that facility that pays the majority of those bills; Walker: Even the taxes on the 400 acres? Myers: It is park land; it is deeded park land, there is no – there might be sliver where there is a house that we don't rent out; because we're not renting it, I think that whole property – if there is, it's less than \$500 that we have in taxes; it's exempt from property taxes; Wildman: That's an area where our partners – if there are, same thing – if there are taxes for the land that we are managing, they cover those; we also work with the TJ Evans Foundation, and they own some land; they acquire land and then look for a partner to manage it; we charge rental fees for everything – the only thing I would say that we don't charge is public usage; you want people to

come to your parks, you want families and people to come and have fun, our parks will always be open to them; if you want a specific facility reserved at a specific time, there is always a rental fee.

Lynch: (unintelligible) Myers: That's a general fund transfer, correct; Lynch: (unintelligible); Myers: Income tax revenue, correct; we are a 100% property tax school district; Lynch: (unintelligible); Wildman: In 2005, Granville Township passed a 1 mil permanent operating levy that was in perpetuity for parks; obviously that's kind of depreciating over time, because it's not keeping all of the new-owned values; new builds you get, but you don't get the – as the houses depreciate, you don't get that; in 2009, the township stopped collecting their 1 mil when the Granville Recreation District passed our 1 mil permanent operating levy; it didn't increase anyone's taxes, it just added other jurisdictions; that is 100% property tax, and the Rec District collects that, and we get the check from the county; Lynch: What were they using that money for before it went to parks? Wildman: It was going to the parks, but the difference was that it was the township collecting it; the township administrator would say 'okay, we have to put some more ground down, we want to do this, we want to do that', and they would give it to a 501(C)(4) board that was called the Granville Recreation Commission; there were 15 people on that did programming and capital planning; there was a levy that the township had that they collected, they determined what they were going to give that 15 person group; I think that was one of the – as people kept requesting things, and more facilities, it was 'we just have to know that we are collecting this, and this is going to be there'; I assume they didn't have any control over that; it's all property taxes; Lynch: If that's collected within the township, does most of your school district? Wildman: Mine is absolutely the school district; Lynch: Even if there's other townships that overlap, it's still the school district – Bennett: It's the taxation boundary, for us it would be the school district; Wildman: I always think of it in 'donut terms'; the donut hole is the village, the donut is the township, and the rec district and the school district is the box; each one gets a little bit bigger, and the rec district and the school district are the largest; anyone who is a member – who resides in the Granville school district – all of those are rec district members, they pay rec district user fees; we have some programs that are only for residents, we just don't have the facilities to sustain more growth; our youth programs are for Granville residents only; that's a bummer, we would like to grow; there's an opportunity to grow, maybe with more partnership with the YMCA; Myers: For us, when we look at property tax for us, it isn't the greatest; you have to understand what our home values are; I live in a really big house, and I didn't pay a really big price; we've got that piece; school district-wide, if we were to put a property tax on, I don't think 1 mil would generate \$200,000; Wildman: Our 1 mil generates \$450,000; it's an area where I'm very blessed by our property values; Myers: Our income tax is 1.33% still; I think the logical move – what I'm trying to do – is we need to do a quarter percent, capital only, citywide; to deal with the things we need to deal with as a municipality – asphalt, fire trucks, and some other things; that will generate over a million dollars, a quarter percent; that really is what I think is going to happen in the long term; if that's the route – that's what our decision is, do we go into the smaller donut for our tax piece? We could do a lot less than a quarter percent – if we did a quarter percent just for parks, we could probably build the new pool, and do the other things; Hollins: (unintelligible)

Myers: We could only wish that our city motto was 'a city within a park'; Hollins: (unintelligible); Wildman: Our next issue probably will be a property tax; probably some combination of a 20-year bond for capital, and then some portion of operating in the 2 mil range; just trying to do everything we can to keep it as low as possible, and still meet the standard; Myers: How many acres are you guys taking care of now? Wildman: We are taking care of 120 acres – we have a large nature preserve that there was a pool in, the Spring Valley pool, historically it was the greatest thing in Granville, ever; Myers: It's been

closed since before you came, right? Wildman: Yeah, I had no part in closing it; the pool was a very big topic in our community, because of the heart strings that are attached to that facility; the challenge is the way the land was purchased – there were so many folks involved from the Licking Land Trust, from ODNR, and we can do nothing with it from a construction standpoint; we have 120 acres that is beautiful, it's awesome to walk; we cannot do anything on it, which makes it a challenge for us; Myers: Same with our nature preserve, we can build within the footprints of buildings that are already there; we can tear them down, and build within a 20-foot circle around them; the land was bought with conservation money, to keep it as conservation land; Wildman: We have this vernal pool – that's a puddle with weeds in it, as I call it – no one is allowed to go around the pool; Myers: We have one too, and the public doesn't even know it's there; Wildman: It's where the mosquitoes hangout; Peoples: We have one as well, by the way – people don't know where it is.

Peoples: Kris, I had a question – you said something about associations, I assume that's something to do with baseball; Myers: High Point Baseball Association, Bellefontaine City Youth Soccer Association, Bellefontaine Girls Softball, Bellefontaine Youth Football; all 4 are boards, but the way they bylaws are required to be written is that they can't make changes to their bylaws without the JRD approving those changes; that helps give us some control over those organizations, but still encourage them to embrace their organization, and meet their volunteer group; we also still run the programs for the most part; Tracy interacts with those boards, that's part of what her job is; we just did new software this year – we went from 1989 to 2019 this year; with our new software system, we have completely changed what we were doing; every kid used to fill out a form, and we took those forms and put them in excel documents – we spent weeks doing data input, now we don't have to do that anymore; if you have a concern or question, they don't go to those boards, they go to us; it's worked well for our community, but it's not for every community; Wildman: We do it a little different, we run all of that internally – from field hockey, to lacrosse, we run 12 middle school sports – we run it all; I think someone is going to have to make a real compelling point to our Rec District Board and to our school district and community to change that; unfortunately the landscape of use boards in 2019 is 'cocoo for cocoa puffs', quite frankly; I'm sure you hear those stories – you open up USA Today, and someone is punching someone; I think this will change – we're the most qualified people in the state to run youth sports; parents don't always have the best – they have intentions, but maybe they aren't the ones that are aligned with what's best for the community; we will continue to keep those things internally; we collect the money, create the rules, do background checks – if you don't like that, we understand that our programs aren't for everyone; Myers: All the coaches, everything runs through our office; it's just the nature of what we do; Lynch: (unintelligible); Myers: The office is staffed; I have Tracy full-time, she's in the office and out; she also coordinates all of our concessions, does the nature program; I'm spoiled with what she does, she's been around awhile and understands the budget; I have 2 full-time maintenance, I have a half-time office person that we share with the engineer's office; we have one year-round part-time maintenance; we hire our seasonal staff; I have 6 guys dedicated to mowers in the summer, a lot of those are 3 days a week, which is the best for them, because they're happy; we hire pool staff – the other thing about our pool – it's not about a place to go in the summer; it's about learning to swim, we teach over 300 kids a year in swim lessons; the other piece is about teaching kids how to get a job; we are one of those first employers for a lot of kids in our community, we take a lot of pride in teaching kids how to be employees; we hire a bunch of 16, 17, and 18 year-olds, and we pay them a little over minimum wage; fortunately I have a great pool manager that's a school teacher; we have been really blessed with how we have the right people in the right places; I don't know how we have sustained what we have done – I think it's a testament to the community and them embracing what we do; Wildman: We probably have a thousand

volunteers throughout the year – whether they are coaching, concerts on the green; we've got 4 full-timers, a number of part-timers, a couple of part-time-plus that we are getting a good deal on; they're qualified and should be paid a lot more than they are; Myers: We have a lot of late 50's retired public employees; Wildman: As the staff grows, you're able to obtain and direct volunteers in a different way; one person can help manage so many people – when you're able to direct people towards the things they're passionate for – Myers: Started a guy on a mower, he lasted a week, now he lines and drags every ball field, every day – he loves it, happy as a lark; it's the community coming together to make it happen.

Jarvis: Mr. Wildman, Mr. Myers, you guys have been up for a long time on your feet; Myers: This is our passion; Jarvis: It definitely shows; Myers: I'm a second generation – my dad was a parks and recreation director, and then he became a city administrator for another 18 years; I was stationed at a ball field at 10 years old across town, with a radio, a chalk machine, and a score book for a state women's softball tournament; I lined the field, I kept the score, and I'd radio the score back to the main complex; I didn't know anything different – I didn't know kids went to the park to play and not pick up trash; now my kids don't know any different.

Wildman: We both are so passionate, we are happy to do anything we can to help; Jarvis: This helps, sometimes we think of ourselves as an island, and we are not – we have a lot of commonality, even though your situations are different; Myers: I don't know if your staff has had the opportunity, but the Ohio Parks & Recreation Association conference every February – have you been? It's invaluable to connectivity; we don't do a whole lot of original stuff, we do a lot of stealing from each other; Bennett: Yeah, it's a lot about finding efficiencies – I went 2 years ago, we benefitted a lot; Jarvis: Mr. Bennett, thank you a lot for inviting the guests and bringing up the topic; do you have any closing remarks? Bennett: Some ways that they work, obviously probably not exactly the ways we would work in our community, but I think we have something that has the potential to be more than what it is currently; I guess I would ask that we consider are there other ways or opportunities that we can partner the JRD to help build a stronger community?

E. Adjournment @ 7:10 p.m. A motion was made by Bennett to adjourn, seconded by Lynch. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 6 – Bennett, Lynch, Amos, Coolman, Jarvis, Walker