



RICHFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY: February 2, 2026 – 6:00 pm

LOCATION: Village Hall

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

ROLL CALL: Present: Diane Nagy, Tony Altobelli, Steve Hoffman, Ellen Daniels

ABSENT: Jason Keppler

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Mike Wheeler, Village Council Representative Carol Campbell, Parks and Recreation Assistant Amber Smallwood

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

- **2026 Elections of Officers & Park Assignments**
 - Chair – Steve Hoffman
 - Vice Chair – Ellen Daniels
 - Secretary – Diane Nagy
 - Tree and Landscape Representative – Diane Nagy
 - All board members will remain focused on their appointed parks from 2025
- **Future Meeting Dates: First Monday of each month @ 6pm**
 - July 6
 - Moved Sept 7th to August 31 tentatively
- **Meetings and Minutes**
 - December's minutes were approved with corrections
 - Next Meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2026, at 6pm at Village Hall

VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: No report

PARK BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS (Incl representative report & park)

- **Babb's Orchard Park:** The restroom was taped off due to it falling during the last windstorm and has since been replaced. The discussion of lights for the sledding hill was revisited. Interim Director, Mayor Wheeler, stated that it is not in budget currently, but will re-evaluate the capital budget in July to see if money can be made available.
- **Village Hall Complex:** No report
- **Eastwood Preserve:** The topic of adding a 4th garden that would hold 8 – 10 new plots was discussed. Ellen Daniels mentioned the need to do a walkthrough of the property with Western Land Conservancy.
- **Richfield Woods:** The discussion of sponsorship signs and naming of the baseball fields continued. Steve Hoffman stated he would gather information from surrounding cities and report back at the next meeting.
- **Carter Pedigo Trail (Tree and Landscape) :** The new story will be up on February 3rd. Steve Hoffman motioned to stop any more funding and discussion for the Carter – Pedigo trail extension. The motion passed unanimously, 4 – 0. Board members agreed about major concerns regarding parking, safety, vandalism, and cost.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Summer camp fees and registration dates are as follows:
 - Village of Richfield Residents and Employees: February 2 at 8am - \$200 for 1st child, \$190 for second child, and \$180 for 3rd or more children
 - Non – Resident Returning Families from 2024 and 2025: February 6 at 8am - \$225 for 1st child, \$215 for 2nd child, \$205 for 3rd or more children
 - Non – Residents: February 9 at 8am - \$225 for 1st child, \$215 for 2nd child, \$205 for 3rd or more children
- For January, the Broadview Heights Recreation Center voucher program issued 31 vouchers to Village residents.
 - These vouchers served 19 households, including 11 senior participants and 1 youth participant.
- The January invoice from Broadview Heights has not yet been received.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Just as a place holder in the public record, we did not hold a Park Board meeting in January of 2026.

- Council will be presented with the trail extension plans and findings at their February 17, 2026, meeting. We need to discuss the feasibility of and necessity of extending Carter-Pedigo trail to Brecksville Road.
- Council is still discussing the possibility of parceling off the Eastwood House and selling it.
- We just received 800 tons of salt, so I believe we are good to go for the season.
- Summer camp is open and as of this morning we had 40 kids in each of the 8 weeks of camp. We are seeing however some discrepancies in claimed addresses. Especially when compared to the children's addresses last year. Amber is double-checking all the variations, and we will be asking for proof of residence from those who are not listed on the property or whose address was different last year.
- We received \$9,000 last year from the USTA for equipment, some of which we used to buy benches. We received another \$2,500 this year for a gate lock on the tennis courts. We will take \$5,000 from the grant we received last year to purchase 2 more locks so we will have smart locks on all 3 gates. All done without costing the Village a dime.
- Legislative updates: The city of Akron's plan to demolish the former Firestone Plant #1 was stopped in its tracks, a new round of community conversations is starting this week to consider strategies to save — at the very least — the most recognizable feature of the Rubber City industrial landmark.
- [Sen. Tom Patton](#), R-Strongsville, has introduced a bill that would require voter approval of the installation of cameras that detect traffic violations. He calls the use of such cameras a "quick cash grab" and "invasive."
- U.S. Rep. Jim Jordan and U.S. Sen. Bernie Moreno are urging the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold President Donald Trump's executive order that would end birthright citizenship for children born in the United States to parents without permanent legal status
- Ohio lawmakers are considering legislation that would require daily recess for students in kindergarten through eighth grade, guaranteeing time for physical activity during the school day. [House Bill 304](#), would mandate 30 minutes of recess in the morning and 30 minutes in the afternoon for K-8 students in public schools, community schools, STEM schools and college-preparatory boarding schools.

COUNCIL REP REPORT:

- Carol Campbell reported that Rick Hudak is now Council President, and Sue Ann Philipbar is now the Vice President and the Planning and Zoning Council Representative.

OLD BUSINESS



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- Yoders will be building the new barn at Eastwood with a projected start date in May/June
- The Boy Scouts still plan to build two kiosks for Richfield Woods Park

NEW BUSINESS

- Community Day – Talked about having classic games in celebration of the 250th anniversary.

ADJOURNMENT 7:46 pm