

**VILLAGE OF VALLEY VIEW  
RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

6828 Hathaway Road  
Valley View, OH 44125  
(216) 524-9365

**RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, January 21, 2016  
7:00 P.M. Meeting

- I. Roll Call
  - A. Todd Von Ville, Director of Recreation
  - B. Janet Flaherty, Assistant Director of Recreation
  - C. Rocco Casadonte, Recreation Board
  - D. Mike Foote, Recreation Board
  - E. Jeff Grabel, Recreation Board
  - F. Debbie Hartman, Recreation Board
  - G. Don Paulson, Recreation Board
  - H. Brad Borowy, Council Recreation Committee Chair – ABSENT
  - I. Tom Perk, Council Representative
  - J. Dave Wingenfeld, Council Representative – ABSENT
  
- II. Elect President of Recreation Board for 2016
  - Mike Foote was elected President of the Recreation Board for 2016.
  
- III. Project List
  - The Board is in the process of reviewing its project list in an effort to update and re-prioritize any upcoming improvement or maintenance projects. Updates regarding projects which were previously identified and are in varying stages of planning and execution will be provided at a future meeting. These projects include dugouts at Lombardo Park, signs in the parks regarding dogs/pets, the wall at the gazebo in Valley View Woods, potential work at Miller Park, and a possible replacement of the holding tank for Pavilion A and adjacent amenities.
  - Mayor Piasecki previously provided the Recreation Board and Council members with information regarding a proposed Cuyahoga Heights Village pool upgrade project, which could involve Brooklyn Heights and Valley View working in conjunction with Cuyahoga Heights on the project. The Board discussed the possibility and developed a list of questions regarding the short-term and long-term commitments that could be involved should Valley View take part in a joint project. The questions include:
    - ~What is the total expected cost? What would be Valley View's initial monetary commitment? Would there be long term commitments for upgrades, maintenance, etc.? If so, what are the expected annual operating costs (i.e. staff, supplies, etc.) and maintenance expectations?
    - ~Is the cost to be shared equally among the 3 Villages?
    - ~Would Valley View still have to pay to access the pool and/or splash play area? Would there be separate passes for the pool and the splash play area? Will there be one entrance or separate entrances?

- ~Would Valley View be paying for only the splash park addition, or for the pool upgrades as well?
- ~Who makes the determination on the size and scope of the play area? Would Valley View have short-term and long-term involvement in the decision-making process for planning, maintenance, etc.?
- ~What are the current pool rules? Are private parties/reservations permitted? Can the current rules be provided for review?
- ~Would a committee be formed to receive input from all 3 Villages?

The Board indicates that this project is interesting and should be explored in more depth, and the Board is glad the Mayors of the three villages have held preliminary conversations on the topic. The Board would like to help the process along in whatever way they are asked. The Board would be interested in having a meeting in the near future with Recreation Board members, administrators, elected officials, etc. of the three villages in an effort to seek answers and discuss this possibility. Mayor Piasecki will be contacted to provide guidance and assistance with regard to a potential joint meeting.

- Council Representative Tom Perk indicated that the Board also has a previous set of questions that were posed when a potential splash park in Valley View was being explored, and those questions should also be considered with this potential project.

#### IV. Information Update

- Recreation Fund Available Balance Update (as of January 15, 2016) from Clerk/Treasurer Carol Tomasko: \$258,636.55. According to Tomasko, this amount includes the first of four advances that the Village is scheduled to receive from the County in 2016. The remaining advances are expected in February, May, and July.
- Spring Soccer registrations (deadline March 1), Baseball/Softball registrations (deadline April 1), and Coaching Applications are in the lobby of the Community Center.
- Youth Baseball and Softball Clinics (April 17) and Pitching Clinics (April 24) are scheduled for the spring.

#### V. Other Discussion

- Board Member Mike Foote asked the Board if they would consider changes to the youth T-Ball (ages 4-6) and Coach Pitch (ages 7-9) programs. Foote suggests exploring the possibility of converting to machine pitch leagues in these age groups in an effort to improve skill development. Foote notes that receiving pitches from an adult coach does not give the players an accurate representation of the angle and trajectory of a pitch from a peer, nor does it often provide a consistent placement of pitches that allows for the maximum skill development in practices especially. Additionally, Foote would like to explore adding batting cages with pitching machines at one or more of the Village parks as a practice aid for teams, coaches, parents, etc. If the goal is to serve those who participate in our youth programs, machines would have to be identified that would be age appropriate for both baseball and softball, and for use with players ages 4 through 15. The Board would like the Recreation Department to survey other communities in the area to see if any have tried a similar program or currently operate a program with a similar design, and obtain some feedback on their experience. Likewise, recent and current T-Ball and Coach Pitch coaches can be

contacted for any thoughts or feedback regarding the possibility. In order to have viable leagues in these age groups, Valley View relies on partnerships with neighboring communities like Brooklyn Heights, Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, Newburgh Heights, Seven Hills, and Walton Hills, so their involvement in such changes will likely have to be gauged as well. As such, this is a potential change that will likely take on a more long range schedule for planning and possible implementation.

- Foote also indicated that he would like the Board to consider some changes to the Village's soccer program, specifically at U12 and U14 age groups. Foote proposes that as early as the upcoming Spring 2016 season, the U12 and U14 players attend joint practice sessions (but separate sessions for boys and girls) during the week, then play their game schedules on the weekend as has traditionally occurred. Foote would take the lead on instruction for these groups during the practice sessions, with possible involvement from the coaches at Cuyahoga Heights High School. There would then be parent coaches who would lead the individual teams on game days. The goal would be to increase the skill level of the players, to help increase the knowledge level of the volunteer coaches, and to better prepare the players for advancement to high school soccer. The Board is in favor of trying this approach. The Recreation Department will contact the Cuyahoga Heights High School coaches to attempt to set up a meeting to discuss the possibility, and will also contact the current U12 and U14 coaches to update them on this potential change for the Spring. The Fall sessions would have to be handled somewhat differently as involvement by the high school coaches would not be an option during Fall session. Board member Don Paulson stated that he would not want coaches from outside of the Valley View or Cuyahoga Heights programs brought in, and then use their involvement to identify players for their programs. Foote stated that the goal of this change is to better prepare Valley View soccer players for contribution to the Cuyahoga Heights High School teams, hence the interest in getting the Varsity coaches from the school involved in the plan.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, February 18 at 7:00 P.M. - Random Selection of Pavilion Lottery Positions - Village Hall**