

Anderson Park Board considering bond, conducting survey

Sheila Vilvens, svilvens@communitypress.com 3:37 p.m. EDT March 11, 2015



(Photo: Thanks to Anderson Township Park District)

The Anderson Township Board of Park Commissioners is moving fast to position itself to place a bond issue on the November ballot.

During its March 10 meeting the board approved six separate resolutions requesting the Hamilton County auditor to calculate and certify the amount of revenue each would generate. The millage amounts being certified range from 0.6 mills to 1 mill over a 20-year period and 0.6-mills and 0.7-mills over 15 years.

Early this month Parks Executive Director Ken Kushner announced that the park district has the opportunity to purchase land owned by Beech Acres Parenting Center. This purchase would include the RecPlex and surrounding property.

“Most people think we own the RecPlex. We don’t,” Kushner said. “We own Beech Acres Park. We rent the RecPlex from Beech Acres Parenting Center.” The RecPlex is the park district’s only indoor recreation facility.

The purchase would require a capital campaign to raise funds. Before moving forward the park district is conducting a random telephone survey of 300 residents and an online survey. Both are being conducted by John Fox of John Fox Consulting, Kushner said. The phone calls will come from Fields Research.

The survey will focus on the community’s support for all, some or none of the following items:

- buy the Beech Acres Parenting Center’s property and the RecPlex adjacent to Beech Acres Park, upgrade the RecPlex, and extend the Beech Acres Park trail;
- build a new community recreation center;
- improve the eight existing outdoor parks.

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The survey results will guide the park board as it moves forward with the process.

Kushner said that by law, the park district is limited to a 1 mill or less capital campaign. The cost for a homeowner per \$100,000 of valuation would range between \$21 to \$35 per year based on the amounts included in the resolutions, Financial Officer Brian Jordan said.

Certifying the amounts is the first step in the process, Kushner said. There are several other actions the park board must take by specific deadlines in order to place an issue on the November ballot. The next big step, he said, will be to review survey results when available in order to understand which course of action the community supports.

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