

EASTERN DELAWARE COUNTY JOINT RECREATION DISTRICT

May 22, 2025

Call to Order

Halli Watson called the Eastern Delaware County Joint Recreation District meeting to order on Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sunbury Council Chambers.

Roll Call

Those answering roll included Ms. Jody Grieger, Mr. Todd Musacchio, Ms. Halli Watson, and Ms. Maria Sobota. Mr. Greg Elliott arrived at 6:33 pm. Mr. Bernard Kooi was absent. Others in attendance included Sunbury City Administrator Daryl Hennessy and Mike Ringle from the law firm of Bricker Graydon.

Minutes

Motion by Ms. Watson to approve the minutes with corrections, seconded by Ms. Sobota. Upon roll, all yeas. Minutes passed.

Visitors

Gary Linn, COO and Tony Collins, CEO of the YMCA of Central Ohio, presented to the Board on the organization's mission, history, and community impact. Mr. Linn highlighted that the YMCA has been serving Central Ohio for 170 years with a mission to strengthen communities through accessible programs and services. The YMCA is the region's largest childcare provider, serving over 44,000 youth in 2023, including 493 children from the Big Walnut School District.

Mr. Collins shared several success stories with the Board highlighting how YMCA partnerships have positively impacted nearby communities. The Liberty Township-Powell YMCA was funded through a bond levy and has thrived for over 20 years in collaboration with Ohio State University's medical center. The Reynoldsburg Community Center YMCA was made possible by an income tax increase and was shaped by strong community engagement. In Whitehall, an existing corporate space was repurposed into a community hub without the need for new construction, relying on the creative use of available resources. The City of Delaware followed a similar funding and partnership model, demonstrating how flexible and collaborative approaches can effectively serve diverse community needs.

Gary Linn presented a proposed timeline for the potential development of a YMCA facility. The immediate next step is to conduct a feasibility and market study, estimated to cost between \$25,000 and \$30,000. This study will assess community interest and financial viability and could be completed in four to six months. Following the study, a planning phase would involve visioning, public engagement, site selection, and the development of a funding strategy. This phase typically takes another 12 months but could be adjusted depending on whether a ballot initiative is part of the plan. If pursued, the construction phase would follow, requiring approximately two years from design to ribbon cutting.

Old Business

Ms. Watson provided an update on the insurance quotes, noting that they are still waiting on additional quotes to come in before making a final recommendation to the Board. She also took the opportunity to remind everyone of the virtual meeting policy.

New Business

Mr. Ringle presented Resolution 2025-09 to the Board and reviewed the information outlined within it. He explained the expenditure tiers detailed in the resolution, which defines the required approval and procurement process based on spending levels. These include internal approvals for amounts under \$5,000, Board votes and quotes for mid-level expenditures, and formal bidding procedures for larger

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projects. He also highlighted the conditions under which waivers are permitted, such as emergencies, professional services, or collaborations with other government entities.

Motion by Ms. Watson on Resolution 2025-09, seconded by Ms. Sobota upon roll all yeas.

INFORMATION

Mr. Hennessy reviewed the informational materials distributed from Pinnacle Indoor Sports and the Sports Facilities Companies. He noted that the purpose of these materials was to provide the Board with background on potential partners, industry standards, and insights into the planning and development of indoor sports and recreation facilities.

Before concluding the meeting, Mischa Bodak, a Harlem Township resident and local parent who attended the meeting, asked to speak with the Board about the financial and social benefits of sports tourism and recreation. He suggested looking at successful examples from other states, like Grand Park in Indiana, as something to learn from. He also encouraged getting more people from the township involved to help create a more unified plan moving forward.

Adjournment

There being no further business for the Board, Ms. Sobota moved to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded by **Mr. Elliot**. The motion was approved 5-0.