

PARKS & RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

April 18, 2022 5:45 pm
Senior Center

Members Present:

Steve Ball
Rich Yost
Jen Vogt-Erickson
Tony Segura
Jodi Hartman
Whitney Sauer
Jason Howland, Ex-Officio

Members Absent:

Amy Leach

Staff in Attendance:

Cathy Malakowsky, Director of Community Engagement and Enrichment
Bob Furland, Recreation Manager
Ryan Hajek, Assistant Director of Public Works
Dani Bakken, Recreation Coordinator
Joe Grossman, Superintendent of Parks

Others in Attendance:

Pickleball Discussion Attendees:

Jane Smith, John Peterson, Chris Utz, Wayne Espeland, DJ Sargent, Mike Piechowski, Margie Barber

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Steve Ball at 5:45pm.

Adopt Agenda:

Rich Yost made the motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting and Jody Hartman seconded the motion. The board voted in favor of said motion 6-0. Motion declared passed.

Approval of the Minutes:

Whitney Sauer made the motion to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2022 meeting and Jody Hartman seconded the motion. The board voted in favor of said motion 6-0. Motion declared passed.

Public Items:

Guests from our local pickleball club spoke in hopes of converting the remaining tennis court at Frank Hall Park into additional pickleball courts. They have received a quote of \$1,000 per net not including install from Rink Systems. The surfaces would also need to be repainted to cover the tennis lines and add the pickleball court lines. The club stated they would pay 50% of the cost up to \$5,000 for the work to be done.

The club members stated this need comes due to the growth in our area for the sport. Each morning there are 30-40 people using the courts and the use of temporary nets is unstable. There were 103 members of the club last year and 14 new members so far this year. Tournaments are starting to be much larger and the use of temporary nets is inadequate. Last year the club hosting a tournament with 161 participants from all over the tri-state area. They believe they would need to move from a 2 day to a 3 day tournament due to the size. The club has also recently partnered with the local school district for a grant to purchase temporary nets for Lakeview School.

There was discussion from City staff in regards to the Frank Hall tennis court being the only remaining City owned court left in town. The only other tennis court option is the school districts 8 courts at the high school.

City staff will have further discussion and invite the pickleball group back.

Action/Discussion Items:

Cathy Malakowsky discussed the City's collaboration with Head Start for the aquatic center this summer. City Council approved one free swim lesson session and family pool passes for children/families currently enrolled with Head Start.

Cathy also discussed the RFP for the Marina/Development by the City Beach. The City will evaluate the proposals that come back to see what developers have in mind, such as gas, eating options and docking boats temporarily. This plan is to keep the parking lot and beach, while hopefully adding more parking. The skate park would be relocated to a new area in the City not yet determined. The City would be looking for permanent structures to be built and the land to be sold. Joe discussed his thoughts on getting rid of the park.

Old Business:

Bob Furland discussed the arena roof replacement status. Originally the roof replacement was in the CIP's for a price of \$450,000-850,000, however the low bid came back at \$374,000. The bid will be sent to council for approval with work slated for this summer.

The City Arena rubber flooring replacement will also be lumped in to the arena roof project as well.

Recreation: Report given by Bob Furland and Dani Bakken as follows;

- Thursdays On Fountain performers are all booked.
- Red Shed and Farmers market entertainment will begin May 25 from 3:30-5:30 by the North Lot.
- Cinco De Mayo event will take place in the North Lot on May 5.
- Plans for Art in The Park in the works for June 25.
- The 100th Anniversary of Edgewater Park will take place on August 13th in collaboration with Albert Lea Floats, Rock N Roll the Lake Bike ride and others.

Parks: Report given by Ryan Hajek as follows;

- Ryan discussed the Fountain Lake Park dock. This dock was intended to be permanent, unfortunately the weather conditions lined up just right that the wind and ice wreaked havoc on the dock. City staff is working to get the dock over to the beach to assess damage. There will be more sleeves added for posts to secure even more in the future.
- General spring park clean up, specifically some tree damage
- Ball field maintenance is under way in preparations for summer schedules
- Soil boring at Snyder fields to determine need for tiling
- Downtown banners to be switched out
- Equipment maintenance

- Seasonal Staff hiring
- EAB Grant update
- City parks and docks to be updated on Beacon this summer

City Arena: Report given by Josh Heilman as follows;

- Staff is currently working on summer, fall and winter scheduling for the arena with the user groups.

Aquatic Center: Report given by Dani Bakken as follows;

- Staffing update

Senior Center: Report given by Dani Bakken as follows;

- Update on trips

Marion Ross Theater: Report given by Bob Furland as follows;

- Bob is working with City administration on an AED for the theater.

Board Member Items:

- Rich Yost –
 - Red shed at Snyder was broken into but nothing was taken; discussion on the asphalt at Academy hockey rink
- Jen Vogt-Erickson –
 - Friends of the Library book sale is May 21.
 - She feels that it makes sense to turn the tennis court into an additional pickleball court.
- Whitney Sauer –
 - YMCA is partnering with Park and Rec to hold a Rec Around the Town event. This event will travel to 4 different play parks through the summer and offer an activity and a free meal.
- Jodi Hartman –
 - Would like to know the timing of the work on the frisbee golf course and when the fence is going to be moved for the airport. Staff stated the fence will be moved later this fall as they will have to make holes and match the footage.
- Jason Howland –
 - Willy Wonka auditions will be Monday and Tuesday of next week. NO vaccination is required and the show will run the middle of June for 9 performances.

Adjournment: Tony Segura made a motion to adjourn the Park Board meeting, and Rich Yost seconded the motion. The board voted in favor of said motion 6-0. Motion declared passed. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Afton Wacholz; notes taken by Dani Bakken
Acting Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Secretary

Approved:

Steve Ball
Park & Recreation Advisory Board Chairman