

PARKS & RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

October 16, 2023 5:45 pm
Edgewater Bay Pavilion

Members Present:

Steve Ball
Jodi Hartman
Therese Salazar
Amy Leach
Tony Segura
Jason Howland, Ex-Officio

Members Absent:

Rich Yost
Whitney Sauer

Staff in Attendance:

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

Others in Attendance:

none

Call to Order:

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

Adopt Agenda:

Amy Leach made the motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting and Therese Salazar seconded the motion. The board voted in favor of said motion 5-0. Motion declared passed.

Approval of the Minutes:

Amy Leach made the motion to approve the minutes from the August 21, 2023 meeting and Therese Salazar seconded the motion. The board voted in favor of said motion 5-0. Motion declared passed.

Public Items:

Follow-up on Pickleball letter- Dani will talk to Whitney to see if she contacted Chris about the process of a project request. If Whitney did not follow up with Chris, Bob Furland will contact him.

Action/Discussion Items:

- **Parks Rules/Regulations-update City ordinance**

- Cathy discussed what the ordinance says verses what the park rules are, right now there is no legal
- Council can make a resolution to park rules that if they are broken the person can receive a misdemeanor
- Cathy shared the changes that City staff recommend made to the park rules/regulations. Board discussed changes
- Amy Leach made a motion to adopt the staff recommended rules to the city council, Jodi Hartman Seconded it. Vote was taken 4-1 motion passed.
- **Soft landing for ice fishing on Fountain Lake**
 - Ryan Hajek presented the idea of placing a soft-landing on fountain lake to make it easier for ice houses and cars to get onto the lake for ice fishing in the winter.
 - Jodi made a motion to let city staff make shoreline beach more accessible for ice fishing by making a soft landing. Amy Leach second, voted 5-0 motion passed
- **Permanent corn hole at Edgewater Park**
 - Mike Westney proposed to take out the current horseshoe pits that are by the Edgewater Large pavilion and replace them with permanent corn hole pits. Mike shared that the cost will be about 1,000.00 per set. These boards are made out of a smooth cement. Staff feels we should start with one set of boards and can get another set if needed. Therese made a motion to direct staff to proceed with permeant corn hole in place of the horseshoe pits, Amy Leach seconded, 5-0 voted yes, motion passed.
- **Response to vandalism at Lakeview Park Bathroom**
 - Mike Westney shared that vandalism continues to be a problem at the bathrooms at Lakeview Warming house. Mike is suggesting getting a door that automatic locks at a certain time and unlocks in the morning,
 - Tony made a motion that city staff install a time lock system at Lakeview warming house bathrooms, Amy Leach second. The board voted in favor of said motion 5-0. Motion declared passed.

Staff Reports:

Recreation: Report provided by Bob Furland and Dani Bakken;

- Learn to Skate
 - Session 1 ended October 15; 36 total participants
 - Session 2 will start October 22
- Mites Hockey
 - Mites Hockey will start November 4; 45 participants are currently signed up but we expect there will be a rush of registrations come in the final two weeks
- MEA break
 - We are once again partnering with Community Education and the YMCA to offer No School Day activities for both October 19 and 20
- Scholarship fund
 - We started a scholarship fund with donations from Blue Zones; this scholarship fund will cover 70 percent of a registration fee with the participant having to pay the additional 30 percent.
 - To qualify the participant needs to meet one of the of the following criteria:

- Qualify for at least one form of assistance from Freeborn County Department of Human Services:
 - Food assistance
 - Daycare assistance
 - Subsidized housing
- Be enrolled in MN Sure for insurance
- Receive Supplemental Security income or Social Security benefits
- Participants need to apply one time a year and can register for 2 programs per Fun Guide
- Oktoberween
 - Working on the haunted house and kids' carnival activities
 - Volunteers are still needed! See the flyer included. Contact the Rec staff if you are interested in volunteering!

Parks: Report provided by Ryan Hajek/Mike Westney;

- Snyder fields fence project has been delayed to Monday, October 23
- ReLeaf Grant – roughly \$150,000
- Staff prepared Bancroft Park for the Big Island Rendezvous Oct 6/7/8
- Construction of enclosed breezeway at Edgewater Bay Pavilion between the bathrooms and the pavilion
- New fencing going up at the new food truck plaza
- New playground equipment installation at Valley Park
- Mowing has picked back up again
- 100 new trees arrive on Oct 16 and staff will begin planting
- Fertilizing, spraying and aerating parks and sports fields
- Last week of seasonal pavilion rentals; Edgewater Bay Pavilion remains open through the winter
- Community garden clean up after October 15
- Outdoor hockey rinks will be put up
- Beach, fountains and docks will be removed for the winter
- Working on truck purchasing
- Bancroft Bay Park parking lot resurfacing project has begun

City Arena: Report provided by Bob Furland/Josh Heilman;

- Both sheets of ice are in full operation
- Painted the south wall in Nystrom Arena in preparation for new bleacher installation
- Bleachers will be installed for both arenas by the end of this month
- Retrofitted 12 light fixtures in Nystrom Arena
- Waldorf upcoming games:
 - October 20 7pm and 21 2pm - Northern Illinois University
- Started high school open hockey for both boys and girls
- Hockey Association try outs just ended; seasons are going to start soon
- Figure Skating has begun their season

Aquatic Center: Report provided by Bob Furland/Dani Bakken;

- Parking lot is currently being resurfaced

- Steel beams in filter room have been replaced as well as the grating and repairs to the steps

Senior Center: Report provided by Bob Furland;

- October 20 - 80's Brunch at the Senior Center
- December 8- Christmas Party
- Overnight trip in November to Jackpot Junction

Marion Ross Theater: Report provided by Bob Furland;

- The showing of Steele Magnolias is now completed and was a success
- Upcoming events:
 - October 16- Phillip Daniel, Pianist/Composer
 - October 20- Heatbox, professional beatboxer
 - October 27- The Story Show "Blaze your trail"

Other: Report provided by Cathy Malakowsky;

- Nothing additional

**** Top 5 Project Updates:**

Restrooms by Splash Pad –

- No update

Develop the Union Pacific rail to trail –

- No update

Develop an off-season field house –

- No update

Upgrade Snyder Fields –

- See Parks department updates regarding the fencing and dugouts.

Update aging facilities, including the City Arena and Aquatic Center –

- Special meeting with Council to visit the City Arena on October 12

Board Member Items:

- Tony Segura –
 - Auditions for the Christ Carol are being held on October 23 and 24, 2023 at the Marion Ross Theater.
- Therese Salazar –
 - Wondering if the pool would be able to be open passed Labor Day. Dani and Bob will look into what the options are but they did share that several staff go back to college or start fall sports.
 - There used to be a bench on the corner of Hammer and Bridge Street that has been removed since getting the new lights. Therese was wondering if that bench could be put back. Mike shared that he believes that bench belonged to the church.
- Jason Howland –
 - Attended the Apex meeting at City Arena and was surprised on all the empty space there was at the arena
 - Upcoming theater concerts:
 - Phillip Daniels- Classical Trained Pianist
 - Heat box- Professional beat boxer

- Steele Magnolias play wrapped up and had several sold out shows.

Adjournment: Amy Leach made a motion to adjourn the Park Board meeting, and Jodi Hartman seconded the motion. The board voted in favor of said motion 5-0. Motion declared passed. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dani Bakken
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Stand-In Secretary

Approved:

Steve Ball
Park & Recreation Advisory Board Chairman