

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Date: Thursday, April 1st, 2021

Time: 4:00 pm

1. In Attendance:

Al Ebert, Mark Rajkovich, Judy Christianson, Alderperson, Betty Nies, Wendy Behnke, Vicki Shafran, Joel Thorpe, City Administrator Peter Wills and Director Ann Marx. Excused were: Dennis Miller, and Shelly Lau.

2. Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Judy Christianson, seconded by Mark Rajkovich to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Judy Christianson, seconded by Al Ebert to approve the March 4th, 2021 Park and Recreation Commission Meeting. Motion carried.

4. Visitors: none.

5. Chairman's Report: none

6. Directors Reports:

A. Community Center:

1. Facility Report: Sportsman scans/day passes are up as people are starting to get out an about with the warmer weather. Door counter is also up.
2. Building & Grounds:
 - a. The gym lights need to be replaced. We are replacing the middle row of lights with LED fixtures and using the good parts of what we took down to fix and repair the outer rows. This will cost about \$2700 which is available to us in our budgeted items.
 - b. We had some vandalism occur overnight with the card reader. The reader was scratched and damaged. We were closed until we could get another card swipe installed – cost was \$275.00. While we were closed Ann emailed members why and how long it was intended to be closed and we no complaints.

- c. We are installing a wireless camera with a built in battery backup and surge protector in the vestibule facing the card scanner. This was ordered prior to the freeze on spending.
- 3. Staffing: An ad was placed for summer help; one for Recreation Department and one for Andy's department. Normally we would have 2 for each but with budget cuts we had to settle for one each. Age requirements are 16 or older with a valid driver's license. It was recommended to make sure to send the ad to Nick Madison at the school. Our aquatics director will be leaving by April 12th. We are struggling to find anyone as wages elsewhere are extremely high. We are also looking for Soccer and Baseball Refs.

B. Parks:

1. Updates:

- a. We received an email from Mark Olson that he will no longer be attending the Park Board Meetings. He said "With the ongoing inability of the City to fund even the most basic needs of the park system, there is little I can do to advance the committees work. I will of course ask to update the committee, in person, as needed, at Brillion Works LLC continues on its journey to build the first phase of the redevelopment and its planned public space. Please accept my thanks for allowing me to attend these past years and I wish your team success."

- 1. A discussion was held with very open comments and concerns about the entire "New" Horn Park. Peter says that no exchange of land has occurred and he believes a referendum would need to be held to actually sell the land. The Park Board is concerned with the loss of actual acreage for the Park as although we were told we would lose just a couple acres – the acreage would now include the trail and roads in the park. There is concern about losing the beautiful trees – this is the only park with shade at this time in the city. Wendy emailed "Tree City USA" and if we were to exchange the land and Brillion Works LLC would cut down all the trees for development we would most likely lose our "Tree City" designation. More discussion was held on the fact that the new park area would not have much green space as being built over the old BIW building and grounds much of it may not allow for development as it may still have contamination.

Many of the Park Board members either worked there or had family that worked there and are concerned that although contamination was documented while Mr. Kopidlansky was a part of the BIW, prior to and during his time many contaminates were dumped into the yard and never reported to him. The Park Board is concerned that children would be on contaminated soil or that the City could end up being fiscally and financially responsible for the cost and work to remove contamination as the city has paid a huge amount already and has gotten stuck with lawyer fees from other parts of the redevelopment. It was mentioned that not having Mark Olsen at the meetings has made for more open discussions. Peter is looking into the entire thing and will keep the Park Board abreast of the situation.

2. Peter's Park is in need of a new little kids swing, Ann got a quote of \$450 – we have money in reserves and are hoping to get this taken care of. The slide is also cracked and Ann is looking into cost for replacement.
3. Door at Horn Park Pavilion is shot – Ann is looking for a local contractor to replace it.
4. The soccer fields and Horn Park and the HS are in need of painting yet.

C. Aquatics:

1. Patron Comparison: Up 1000 from last year – as last year we were closed due to the pandemic.
2. Program Updates: Brillion Public Summer School is 7am-8am from June 8-12. Water Exercise moved to 8am. Reedsville will have morning and afternoon – Ann will work out the schedule as she can. Public lesson will need to be scheduled around these.

D. Recreation: Baseball has 2 teams in both leagues. Girls Softball cost is \$28 per girl and Boys Baseball is \$53 per boy. It was recommended to increase the girl's fee for next year.

7. Old Business:

- A. Judy Christianson asked about the fitness center concerns from last meeting, and at this time Ann said everything is going well and the kids are respecting the facility at this time,

8. New Business: none

9. Adjournment

At 4:55 pm, Chairman Al Ebert adjourned the meeting

Respectfully submitted for approval,

Wendy Behnke, Commission Secretary