

# PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** Thursday, October 7, 2021

**Time:** 4:00 pm – PETER’S PARK CONFERENCE ROOM

## **1. In Attendance:**

Al Ebert, Dennis Miller, Judy Christianson, Wendy Behnke, Alderperson Tim Hanson, alternate Betty Nies, Director Ann Marx, City Adm. Peter Wills, and Mayor Mike Smith. Excused were: City Administrator Mark Rajkovich and Joel Thorpe.

## **2. Approval of Agenda:**

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

## **3. Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Dennis Miller, seconded Judy Christianson to approve the September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 Park and Recreation Commission Meeting. Motion carried.

## **4. Visitors: none**

## **5. Chairman’s Report: Chair Al Ebert asked Peter Wills to give an update on the Arien’s Round Lake Farms Annexation. Peter gave a brief summation of the annexation process. He noted that there is no development agreement, not considered a subdivision and the will not be a TIF district. It is approximately 187 acres. A public hearing will be held on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>, followed by a Council meeting.**

## **6. Directors Reports:**

### **A. Community Center:**

1. Facility Report: Numbers are down from last month, due to no swimming lessons in September but still up from last year.
2. Building & Grounds:
  - a. Locker room doors: The family locker room wood doors are being replaced with metal doors by Keller – they are picking up the cost. Wenzel Painting them. All covered under warranty.
  - b. Cleaning Position: Gary Denor from Reedsville will be cleaning at the community center daily. Larry will continue to help at the parks.
  - c. Budget: Admin. Wills and Mayor Smith led an hour long discussion on the 2022 budget. This included that the Recreation Department is short over \$80,000 to balance the budget for next year. Admin. Wills gave an overall summary of the past and that in order to balance the budget in previous years, contingency funds and short term borrowing was used. Their goal is to have a true balanced budget so we can start to put money away again for true emergencies. All members of the board agreed that we need to find ways to make cuts to the budget. One thing that was mentioned is that if we cut hours at the Community Center that will end up reducing revenue also. See Friends section below.

B. Parks:

1. As of 10.30.21 the bathrooms in the parks will be closed for the winter. It was noted that all parks are still open for public use – just the bathrooms are closed.
2. Peters Park Sign: Gary Dieter the former mayor repaired the sign and it looks pretty good for now. Admin. Wills will go forward with asking for money from the Tourism Board to have the sign replaced within the next year or so.
3. Friends Group: In order to raise money for the Recreation Department, Mayor Smith and Admin. Wills recommended that one or more groups be formed (ie. Friends of the Community Center and/or Friends of the Parks). It was noted by many on the Park Board that this sounds like a good idea on paper, but the groups that are already in existence in the city are struggling to find and keep members that will do the work. Admin. Wills brought up selling naming rights to Heritage Park or the Community Center as a way to get funds. He will contact the Peter's Foundation first regarding the Community Center and then maybe others.

C. Aquatics:

1. Patron comparison: Up again and in October the CESA kids will be coming.
2. Free Open Swims: There are free open swims coming up all sponsored by local businesses. At this time we are still only allowing 50 people – a list is already started for the next one.
3. Chemical Storage: Director Marx reported that if we can get a larger storage container we will be able to save money on delivery charges next year. The board authorized her to purchase the largest one, the money will be recouped within the year.

D. Recreation:

1. LWMMI Grant; A grant was received of \$2000 for next year.

7. Old Business: None.

8. New Business:

- a. Peter's Park: The City of Brillion and the Brillion Athletic Association received a grant of \$55,098 from the RD and Linda Peters Foundation Board of Directors. \$12,218 will be used for the repair of the playground equipment at Peters Park and the remainder is to be used to put in dugouts and repair fencing at the baseball field in Peter's Park.

**9. Adjournment: Chairman Al Ebert adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm. Next meeting will be November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at the Community Center.**

**Respectfully submitted for approval,**

Wendy Behnke, Commission Secretary