

Park Board Minutes

Scheduled Meeting

May 3, 2021

The Parks and Recreation Board met on Monday May 3, 2021 at the Recreation Center at 5:00 p.m.

Attendees: Michelle Hastings, George Johnson, Steve Taylor, Sandy Still, Ricky Overcast, Mary Grace Phillips

Other Attendees: Mike Alsup, Director of P & R, Trevor Frietas, Frances Simpson

Agenda Item # 1 Roll Call

Agenda Item # 2 Consideration of Additional items to Agenda

- Smoking in Parks: Mike asked the committee to be thinking on what the best policy would be for the public smoking in the parks. Mike stated they are currently allowed to smoke outside the fenced areas within the parks. Mike recommended putting a sign up asking the public to distance themselves from the main fence gates, so that other public attendees do not have to walk through the smoke. Michelle suggested putting up no smoking signage within the gates. Mary Grace stated she would like to see there be no smoking within the parks. Trevor stated it would be impossible to enforce no smoking in the parks. Sandy suggested having a designated smoking area. Mike would like to follow up on this topic at the June 28, 2021 Park Board meeting.

Agenda Item # 3 Consideration of Minutes: September 9, 2019

- Steve Taylor motion for approval
- Mary Grace Phillips second the motion

Agenda Item # 4 Director's Report

- Mike reviewed the Directors report for February and March, and reported the following items from the reports:

- Good attendance in tennis, BB, swim team and feels the Recreation Center has been being put to good use.
- Programming had cupid quest and nerf wars as two new programs this year, and had a good turnout for these programs. He also stated programming had Teen Egg Hunt, Daddy/Daughter and Mother/Son events are coming up soon.
- Batting cage will be opening soon. Staff for this area in the process of being hired.
- Softball ADA restroom project completed.
- Currently have one full-time opening in Parks department.
- Currently working on staffing for summer camp, but due to shortage of Lifeguards the schedule for swimming will have to be altered this year.
- July 4th firework show will be celebrated on July 3rd this year and there will be music, food trucks, and vendors on site during the show.
- There were 61 people who signed up and attended for the Glow 5K.
- Senior Olympics are happening now.
- Lot of activity in the outside of the Parks and hoping with the restrictions being lifted from Covid-19 the inside will see an increase in numbers of participation.
- Playground demolition will begin July 5, 2021, and the new playground is scheduled to go up in August. Ricky suggested putting an article in the paper and on Facebook to give the public an update on what the plans are for new playground.

Agenda Item # 5 Old Business

- A.** Dog Park Grant Update: Trevor stated City Council approved the dog park, and all documents have been sent in for the grant. The recipient of the grant will be announced in June.
- B.** Memory Tree Update: Trevor reviewed the commemorative tree planting program registration form. Trevor stated we have purchased the wall plaque which includes engravable leaves which will be engraved my L & M awards, and displayed in the Recreation Center. Price will be \$250.00 for the purchase of the tree and leaf to be displayed. The price includes 2" trunk tree, replacement of the tree. The vendor price is \$100.00 dollars. Sugar maples may be harder to come by per the vendor. The trees will be planted in the fall, and Mike along with Parks department will be advising where to plant the trees. Mike stated any Parks can be used for the planting, and there are several ash trees dying that need to be replaced. Trevor stated we would be advertising on Facebook, Recreation Center, Funeral Homes and Times Gazette.
- C.** Master Plan Update: Mike is working with budget to get the demolition approved on the new property. Parks has started mowing a little more property in that area. Mike stated most soccer fields will fit there, but the buildings need to be leveled for safety reasons. Once all of that is completed, we can start using that property in small capacity. Ricky requested a copy of the 2021-2022 proposed budget so that he can see what we are requesting.

- D. Parks & Recreation Covid-19 Response:** Mike reported we will no longer have a limit on the amount of people within the facility. We still will not be open on Sunday's until after we are fully staffed around the middle of May. We have hired a part-time and full-time front desk person and a full-time custodian. Once the staff have been trained, we will open back up on Sunday's. The outdoor pool hours and days will have to be altered this summer due to the shortage of Lifeguards. Trevor stated we have thirteen-fourteen Lifeguards currently and will have six/seven in the next training class, but there are normally 25-30 Lifeguards on duty each summer. City Hall is currently working on the pay scale and hopefully this will help get more recruited. Trevor stated he will hold another class in June if we get applicants.

Agenda Item # 6 New Business

- A. Summer Programming 2021:** Mike reported the swim meets will continue this summer. July 4th rain out day will be Labor Day weekend. Soccer sign-up will start in June. Summer Camp will be five days a week at the Recreation Center, however kids will only be able to swim 11a-3pm during public swim due to the Lifeguard shortage. Mike stated the schools and Boys Club will not be coming this year. Movies in the Park begin in June @ the Smith Shelter.

Agenda Item # 7 Additional Items to Agenda

- None at this time

Agenda Item # 8 Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn given by: Sandy Still
- Second by Steve Taylor

Minutes By: Frances Simpson