

**Minutes of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board meeting  
January 21, 2021**

The meeting of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order by Chairman John Simpson at 3:33 PM in the Training room of City hall. Social distancing was observed by members spreading out in the meeting room. Guests attending were Mendell Miller, President of the Pierre Area Pickle ball Association (PAPBA) and Malinda Hetzel.

Members joining were: Jeff Hanig, Buddy Seiner, Don Templeton and Rachel Arbach. Also present was Commissioner Vona Johnson, Director Tom Farnsworth, Recreation Superintendent Mindy Cheap and YMCA CEO Aaron Fabel. Excused was board member Greg Dean.

Templeton moved, second by Arbach to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

Hanig moved, second by Arbach to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**Old Business**

**Skate Park –**

The board motion from the December 3 meeting was discussed with the City Administrator and Commissioner Johnson. They chose not to advance this motion to the full City Commission and study the options available for possibly moving parts of the current skate park and utilizing it until a new plan is determined for a replacement. The five year plan has earmarked in 2023 to build a new modern skate park to replace the current one. Farnsworth is researching costs to move and location to place parts of Skate Park. American Ramp Company has been asked to send examples of new skate parks and costs. The board will be updated again at the February mtg.

**Pickle Ball –**

Chairman Simpson introduced our guests and together with Buddy Seiner presented a plan with costs to build four pickle ball courts in Griffin Park, location is west of the tennis court they currently play pickle ball at. Miller stated he felt there were between 60-100 Pierre citizens playing the sport. Additional courts would give the PAPBA the ability to host tournaments. After more questions and answers on the project, Seiner suggested the PAPBA work on their draft proposal and bring a final one to the February board meeting. Templeton stated he would like to see a map that had the four courts overlaid on it so he could visualize how it fits west of the tennis courts. Farnsworth suggested they identify how they got their costs. The PAPBA is also asking the City to consider partnering in this project by adding a basketball court. This may involve a cost share on the project. Details on the partnership or expectations from the City and the pickle ball users need to be defined. Simpson asked the board members to think about this and cost sharing. The current park system does not have any new modern basketball courts for citizens to use. Discussion will continue at the February board meeting.

**2021 Plan of Work -**

Farnsworth, Moore and Cheap briefed the board on status of the 2021 projects. Board members asked questions and could comment on progress. The budget currently has \$75,000 that could be redirected to other projects as these funds were for repair of Capitol Creek wall and this was done in 2020.

**New Business**

**Pierre Tennis Association –**

The board was informed of a large donation recently given to the Tennis Association. President Eric Weiss is asking the board for input on how the funds could be spent to make improvements at the Griffin Park Tennis complex. The board discussed options and felt the current building at the site used for storage and concessions could use a makeover and enlarged. Farnsworth will relay these comments to Mr. Weiss.

**Griffin Park Campground –**

Farnsworth explored with the board about raising camping fees and adding a tent camping fee to the campground at Griffin Park. There is no fee for tent camping and current fee for an RV camper is \$16/day with it reduced to \$10/day in winter months. This fee has not been adjusted for several years and is well below the state campground fees. Revenue generated at the campground in 2020 was \$19,417 The board was sent the rates for state campgrounds that exist next to Pierre. The board was also given the current city policy on open burning and recreational fire pits. Currently no fire pits exist at the campground. The board directed Farnsworth to work on more details and bring back information at a future board meeting.

**YMCA/Recreation update –**

Simpson called on Recreation Superintendent Cheap for reports on activities. Cheap stated the rentals of the rec facility are going well. There will be a swim meet in Pierre February 6-7. Classes will be offered at the senior center in February. Fabel felt the swim meet can proceed and do well and the YMCA continues to offer program activities despite the challenges with COVID restrictions.

Simpson concluded the meeting with dialogue comments from the board.  
Motion by Hanig, second by Seiner to adjourn at 5:05PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Farnsworth, Director