

Minutes of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting March 16th, 2023

The meeting of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order by Vice Chair Leah DeMers. Motion by Arbach, second by Potter at 4:00 PM in the Training Room of City Hall.

Members attending were: Don Templeton via phone conference call, Rachel Arbach, Jeff Hanig, Kristi Potter, and Leah DeMers. Also present were: Recreation Superintendent Mindy Cheap, Director Bryan Tipton, and Parks Superintendent Jay Jensen.

Potter moved, second by Arbach to approve the minutes of the February 16th, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

Templeton moved, second by Potter to approve the agenda. Motion carried

A vacant spot is in search by Tipton and Mayor Harding.

Reports:

YMCA - Cheap handed a City of Pierre Summer Recreation brochure. Possible addition of golf summer activities that will be available online. Registration April 24th at 6:00 am. Pool resurfacing starts March 30th. The pool will be closed on March 22nd. The resurfacing and refilling process will take possibly 3-4 weeks. If it can be opened earlier than that with the process being done quicker, they will.

DeMers asked about Outdoor City Pool. Tipton reported that there were no updates as Gidget was out of town in time to answer the questions given. The timeline is predicted Fall of 2023 completion, but more work is needed for opening in the Spring of 2024. Green space in the area will be artificial for low maintenance and prevention of mud and other issues in the pool.

DeMers asked about Summer Recreation Staff and Cheap reported that numbers are looking good and there is no concern that positions won't be filled.

Rec. Dept. - Fabel was absent.

Parks Dept. - Jensen reported lots of snow removal. Floors in bathrooms in the parks are working on being redone. Dakota Epoxy is hired to do them. Bathrooms on the small side of the softball field complex will be redone. Signs are done and restrained. Eagle Scouts cornhole boards have arrived and will work on installing when appropriate. 13 seasonals are hired for the summer season which is up from last year's numbers.

Potter asked about Dog Park and it was reported complete up to this point.

Old Business

Pickleball - Tipton reported that the American Contracting contract was accepted. Waiting for the contract to come back. Tipton also reported pickleball group provided a bank statement of \$67,000 in the account. With other grants and donations, they are just under \$210,000. Another grant of 10,000 will come through when the project is finished. The city is doing other work in-kind to help save on price. Extra fencing from the dog park fence will be put to use in the pickleball courts. Extra funds were put into the city budget. Frustrations about the true cost of the pickleball courts compared to the estimated cost that was given by the pickleball group. Suggestions of changing expectations of future projects from outside groups and cooperation with the city.

DeMers reported that the MOU states that the pickleball group is responsible for the cost of the project and should be held accountable for that. The city has put in much of the in-kind work in house to cut the budget as much as possible to help out. Board members thanked city officials for their work on that.

Planning Discussion - Tipton gave a document showing 2023 in-progress projects, and 2024 and 2025 proposed projects. DeMers asked for clarification of projects that are already in the budget and adopted by the commission. Tipton stated that those projects that are in the 2023 column are adopted by the commission and are a go. Tipton reported light poles being replaced at Griffin baseball field. Other repairs at Dan Kelley field as well.

Hanig asked about the manual block/barricade at Griffin Park when baseball games are going. Still a manual block during baseball times and no plan of changing that process.

DeMers asked about band shelter. Tipton explained why Parks Department chose to just update the band shelter and not replace Mary House Shelter.

Tipton reported that replacement of Capital Creek Bridge may cost up to \$500,000 dollars to complete a bridge like it, but has other ideas of a cheaper alternative.

Devine Park play equipment is ready to be installed when appropriate weather allows.

Bike Trail to be put in on bluff above Cemetery designed by Trail Arts. Tipton reported how the bluff is high and shows a good view of Pierre. The trailhead will start on East Elizabeth behind Ferding Electric/Midwest Construction, wind through the bluff, and end at Riverside Cemetery. The suggestion of putting up signage for some wild critters could be dangerous along the way.

Sharp Shooters has given Tipton a design of the five holes that need to be replaced on the Disc Golf course that was removed because of the water treatment plant.

Tipton reported receiving a \$12,500 USTA grant. Accepted by commission. The Pierre School District and Pierre Tennis Association will also put in funds to help resurface LaBarge tennis courts.

Softball Sports complex field lights will be replaced. Tests will be done on the poles to see if they can retrofit to save some money. Money is budgeted for full price in case. Updating for consistency, maintenance, LED capabilities, and the option to host bigger tournaments.

Lewis and Clark Trail Rehabilitation. The bridge next to Griffin Ball Field will need to be taken out and will not be replaced. Adjustments to the design of the trail will need to be made to still cross the creek. Possible RTP grants and Wellmark grants are going to be looked at for future funding to help with this project.

Pleasant St. Park ideas were given with suggestions of playground surfaces, equipment, fencing for protection, and senior citizen trails/equipment ideas with the Senior Center being near.

The addition of a baseball field is needed within the city as clubs have been asking multiple times to meet the needs of baseball and softball club numbers rising. Hanig reported club numbers rising and it would help with the delegation/organization of certain fields being used for certain clubs throughout the year. Ideas for funds were discussed.

New Business

Officer Adjustment/Re-Election - Motion by Hanig to have Templeton as Chair second by Arbach. Motion carried. Other positions will stay. DeMers Vice Chair and Arbach as Secretary.

Dialogue

Motion by Potter seconded by Hanig to adjourn the meeting at 5:07 pm. Motion carried.

The next meeting is on April 20th at 4:00 pm at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Arbach, Secretary