

**Minutes of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board meeting  
March 18, 2021**

The meeting of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order by Chairman John Simpson at 3:30 PM in the Training room of City hall. Social distancing was observed by members spreading out in the meeting room. Guests attending were Aaron Semmler, Parks department employee.

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

Templeton moved, second by Fabel to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

Seiner moved, second by Fabel to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**Old Business**

**Pickle Ball –**

Chairman Simpson informed the board that April 13 was the date the board would take the Pickle Ball recommendations adopted at the February meeting to the Mayor and full Commission for consideration. Seiner will have approximately five representatives of the pickle ball players in attendance to speak to any specific questions about the sport or partnership. Board members are welcome to attend the meeting if they desire. Some power point slides will be prepared to show the Commission and public on the project.

**Griffin Park Campground Improvements and Fees –**

Moore introduced Aaron Semmler, a member of the Parks staff, who worked on a design and new location for tent camping at Griffin Park campground. The site is east of the RV camp sites and south of the fish cleaning station and is on land under lease by Dan and Barb Downs. Semmler reviewed for the board the benefits of the location, etc. Fire pits would be added to the 9 tent sites as well as the 16 RV sites. The fire chief has stated they will meet city code. This is an amenity that is not currently offered. Semmler estimated total cost of development would be around \$6,588.00 This location moves the tent campers away from the RV campers. Farnsworth presented the policy changes for fees for RV and tent campers. The proposal is to increase the RV camper fee per night from \$16 to \$20 and the tent camping fee from free to \$10/night. There would be no limit on the duration of the stay. The campground is still a first come, first serve process with no advance reservations. The board asked about that possibly being something the City could offer. Farnsworth said he would have to look into that with other staff and determine feasibility. Moore and Semmler stated the water fill stations are also going to be upgraded this spring. If the recommendation is accepted, it would go to full Commission. Commissioner Johnson thought the increased revenue would more than offset the cost of the improvements which are not budgeted at this time. There were many positive comments on the design and proposal from the board. Motion by Fabel, second by Seiner to accept the proposal on design and location for tent camping as presented with the understanding Moore and Semmler will meet with Dan and Bard Downs for permission to utilize the new location. A waiver of liability may need to be signed between the City and Down's. The fee proposal as presented by Farnsworth was also accepted. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Staff will set up a meeting with Dan Down's and discuss the proposal.

**Downs Marina Peninsula project –**

Farnsworth updated the board with help from Seiner, Templeton and Moore on the design prepared by David Locke of Stockwell Engineers showing the fishing access pods and park improvements for Down's Marina Peninsula. While all agreed it was a great design, the costs were high. The City team working on this instructed Farnsworth to send revisions back to Locke which would lower costs and make the area more of a nature park. Game Fish and Parks is also reviewing their part of the project to determine feasibility for funding. The City team working with Locke will meet again once Locke sends back a revised plan.

**Beach Bathroom project –**

Moore updated the board on the design and proposal for the CXT beach bathrooms. Moore is working with City engineer Waters to complete the design and place the order. Farnsworth stated the budget for this item was \$53,000 but may be higher in cost due to some add on amenities. Staff are working on placing the order prior to price changes forecasted by the vendor for April 9. Once the design and amenities are chosen the City Administrator will be briefed and the project will be presented to Mayor and full Commission. It will be midsummer before the bathrooms would arrive in Pierre.

**New Business****YMCA update –**

Simpson called on Fabel, CEO of the YMCA for any updates. Fabel stated staff are preparing for their summer activities and programs. They will be assisting with the Underwater Easter Egg hunt for March 28 at the aquatic center. Fabel said getting seasonal staff help is a challenge. Farnsworth added the new HVAC unit for the aquatic center roof is on schedule with a July 15 deadline for installation.

**Five Year Plan document –**

Staff and the board did a review of the five year plan. 2021 project updates were given. Staff will continue to work on estimated costs for the 2022 projects. The board will need to help prioritize projects for the Commissioner with the goal of having this done by June 1.

Simpson declared the meeting adjourned at 5:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Farnsworth, Director