

Minutes of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board meeting May 21, 2020

The meeting of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order by Chairman John Simpson at 3:35 PM at the Griffin Park Storm Shelter Community room and social distancing was observed by spreading out at the various tables at the facility.

Members joining were: Don Templeton, Jeff Hanig, Rachel Arbach and Buddy Seiner. Also present was Director Tom Farnsworth, Recreation Superintendent Mindy Cheap, Parks Superintendent Thomas Moore, YMCA CEO Aaron Fabel and Commissioner Vona Johnson. Excused was Heather DeBoer who did stop in early for tour of the facility and to pick up the board packet information. Guests attending were Susan LaFave of City hall, Hallie Gronlund Recreation Intern and Tarrah Sonnenschein representing the dog park committee.

Hanig moved, second by Seiner to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

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

Old Business

Community Dog Park –

Simpson welcomed guest Tarrah Sonnenschein who gave an update on the construction of the new dog park. With COVID 19, the fundraising has stalled, about \$2,300.00 has been raised but development of the park is on hold. Trees are still being sponsored with about 50% of them sold. Sonnenschein said they will chase some grant opportunities and it was agreed that no tree planting would take place until possibly this fall. Farnsworth reported that Brosz engineering has done an official site survey and staked the boundary line with parks staff putting in steel posts at the lath locations left by Brosz. The survey indicates the park is just under 2 acres in size for dogs to run in. This survey will help with placement of the trees and eventual fence and parking lot of the park. Simpson thanked Sonnenschein for the update and encouragement was given to keep advancing the plan for the dog park.

Storm Shelter/Community Room –

Simpson welcomed Susan LaFave from City hall who refreshed the board on the reservation policy for use of the new facility. Two graduation events are scheduled and interest seems to be growing for use. A public open house will be held at a later date. Bathrooms were opened May 1 for use by the campground patrons and tennis players. Thomas Moore briefed the board on the landscape plantings and picnic area and how staff will maintain the facility. The board agreed it was a great facility and nice addition to Griffin Park.

2020 Plan of Work –

Staff briefed the board on the continued progress they are making with the 2020 plan of work for the year as of 5.14.20. A report detailing the projects and other tasks was sent to the board in advance for review. The board reviewed this and asked questions of staff. Superintendents Moore and Cheap have the responsibilities of scheduling staff and carrying out the work during the year. It was reported the decision on the outdoor pool use would be decided by the Mayor and Commission at the May 26 Commission meeting. All sports leagues are starting back to practice and play in the coming month.

New Business

Budget Revisions and Five year plan -

Farnsworth briefed the board on the document. Due to COVID 19 impact and new project issues the Director, in consultation with the Commissioner and Park Board Chair, revised the plan and would like feedback from the board. The City is anticipating reductions in sales tax revenues for 2020 and is working on revised five year plans. The board reviewed the handout and made no changes to the recommendations. Projected 2021 project total costs are at \$431,000 plus an estimated \$75,000 for equipment to equal \$506,000 as a Division request for funding.

The goal is to finalize the 2021 budget projections so they can be discussed and reviewed by the City Administrator, Business Manager, Mayor and Commission. Commission budget discussions will take place in August and finalized by end of September for the year 2021.

Simpson called on Recreation Superintendent Cheap for reports on activities. With the closing of the aquatic center Cheap continues doing maintenance on the pool to clarify water. New water softners were recently purchased and installed. Summer recreation programs are being revised to virtual programs, registrations are coming in but slow. Cheap will continue to plan and hire staff as needed.

Fabel stated his staff are doing the best they can with distance learning programs and the YMCA is scheduled to open in May. They too have put in place new operation procedures and extra sanitation efforts with use of equipment, etc.

Motion by Hanig, second by Seiner to adjourn at 4:52PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Farnsworth, Director