

## **Minutes of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board meeting July 16, 2020**

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.

Members joining were: Jeff Hanig, Rachel Arbach, Buddy Seiner and Aaron Fabel. Also present was Director Tom Farnsworth, Recreation Superintendent Mindy Cheap, Parks Superintendent Thomas Moore. Excused was Commissioner Vona Johnson and Don Templeton. Guests attending were Gidget Palmer.

Seiner moved, second by Arbach to approve the minutes of the June 18th, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

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

Simpson introduced and welcomed Gidget Palmer, project manager for the new Water Treatment Plant. Palmer gave a power point presentation on the project reviewing design, location, time table for the project and answered questions from the board regarding the project. Location will be in west Steamboat Park just south of the Chamber of Commerce building. The board is aware of the park amenities that need to be removed and relocated in a new area of Steamboat park. Farnsworth stated the new location, design/layout of the park area and park amenities to be included with total project cost will need to be completed for the 2022 City budget discussions. Potential park amenities may include a public restroom, shade structure, new playground, splash and play pad, parking lot, water fountain, benches and trash receptacles. Simpson and the board thanked Palmer for the informative presentation.

### **Old Business**

#### **Pickle Ball –**

Simpson reported on the meeting he and Farnsworth had with reps of the pickle ball players in the City. Simpson would like to form a working sub-committee of the Park board and work towards solutions for the future of pickle ball play in Pierre. Simpson volunteered himself to be on the committee, Seiner offered to volunteer as well. A motion was made by Hanig and second by Seiner to have Simpson and Seiner represent the Park board for this working sub-committee of the Park board with reps from the sport of pickle ball. Motion carried. Farnsworth will notify the pickle ball group and set up the first meeting of the committee. Updates from this sub-committee will be reported to the Park board.

Simpson stated we still have Don Templeton representing the board on the dog park sub-committee and he asked for another board member to be on that committee since Dr. Howard had retired. Arbach volunteered to represent the Park board on this sub-committee. All supported Arbach for this position.

#### **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 7.15.20. 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.

## **New Business**

### **2021 Budget process –**

Farnsworth briefed the board that their recommendations for 2021 projects were in the pipeline for Commissioner Johnson to represent to the full Commission during budget meetings. Major projects for 2021 include replacement of the outdoor pool with construction in 2021 and completion in 2022, replacement of the last original HVAC unit at the aquatic center, rebuild a failing wall along Capital Creek, replace the original Park shop HVAC unit, finish a wash bay in the Park cold storage building, design new fishing access and park amenities for Down's Marina Peninsula, seal coat the walk paths entrances at the sports complex, replace the beach bathrooms, replace a large window at the Discovery Center, rehabilitate the Mary House shelter. The budget also includes requests for two park utility vehicles and a mower.

Simpson called on Recreation Superintendent Cheap for reports on activities. Cheap stated she has offered special events like neighborhood fire hydrant parties for families and these are going very well. Movies in the parks are back and we have great attendance. Summer rec programs will conclude July 31 with better than anticipated attendance considering the threat of Covid 19.

Cheap also announced a grant she had written for with National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) has been funded. The grant is for the outdoor pool and more details will be announced soon. The minimum award is \$40,000 and could possibly be more. Simpson and the board congratulated Cheap for this effort and this is a great addition to the fundraising efforts towards the new pool. More information will be made available with NRPA gives the ok.

Fabel stated the YMCA is preparing for the August 2 ½ marathon with about 80 registered to run. All else is going well. Tackle football sign up will be coming up soon.

Simpson asked for any dialogue comments from the board. Farnsworth stated Mayor Harding is working on a replacement for DeBoer on the Park board.

Motion by Seiner, second by Hanig to adjourn at 4:55PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Farnsworth, Director