

**Minutes of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board meeting
July 18, 2019**

The meeting of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order by Dr. Howard at 3:30 PM in the City Hall Prairie Room.

Members attending were: Rachel Arbach, John Simpson and Jeff Hanig. Also present was Commissioner Vona Johnson, Tom Farnsworth, Mindy Cheap and Thomas Moore. Excused were Don Templeton, Aaron Fabel and Heather DeBoer. No guests were present.

Arbach moved, second by Hanig a motion to approve the minutes of the June 20 meeting. Motion carried.

Hanig moved and Simpson second a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Old Business

The board reviewed the 2019 project list and staff answered questions as needed.

2019 Projects Started/Underway – OSA softball field improvements with OSA and BID board funds, Down's Marina/Lewis and Clark Trail section improvements with Well mark grant, Griffin Park Storm Shelter/Community room, HVAC unit replacement at the Aquatic Center, flag pole for community orchard is now completed, Griffin Park baseball field renovation project with CCBA and BID board funds is underway with demolition complete, Christenson family park bench plaque is done, plaque for Tim Von Kennel park bench is being made, landscaping, seeding, irrigation hookup in campground area where new storm drain was installed is done. The JO sponsored storage shed at the softball complex is now complete.

2019 Projects Not Started Yet, To Be Completed this year – Steamboat Trail rehabilitation (Amphitheatre section), Memorial Park benches for Marilyn Tassler, Landscaping, seeding, irrigation around the new storm shelter/community room, Landscaping, seeding, irrigation front of Chamber of Commerce building, Landscaping, seeding west of Amphitheatre. The community orchard shed and shelter has not started but will be done by a contractor.

Projects moved to 2020 potentially – parking lot rehabilitation West of Dan Kelley field (street dept.), FEMA sponsored high water mark sign.

Outdoor Pool Committee – Commissioner Johnson reported the Capital Campaign July 14 kickoff at Hyde Stadium was more of a soft opening. Ron Woodburn was introduced as the capital campaign chair. \$277.38 in donations was received. The event was also the announcement of pierrepool.com as the web site to go to for information on the project and how to donate to the pool project. Ron Woodburn is assembling his cabinet to raise funds. The pool committee will continue to meet as needed to assist with the project. Fund raising will take two years, final design to be completed in 2021, and construction to start in 2021 with new pool opening in 2022.

Dog Park location – Dr. Howard updated the board on the action of the City Commission regarding the board recommendation to utilize the park land east of the park shop on Sully Street for a new dog park. The Commission held a public hearing July 9 and voted to allow use of the land as proposed by the board. Commissioner Johnson has directed the dog park committee to include a representative of the neighborhood on Sully Street in future planning meetings of the committee. Dr. Howard said that will happen and he recommended the committee meet sometime in August to continue its work. Commissioner Johnson will work to secure names of the citizens that will join the committee.

Down's Marina Peninsula – Farnsworth reported the potential funding for creating additional fishing access on the peninsula will not be available this year. He recommended the board work on design of the peninsula improvements in 2020, meet with SDGF&P staff to review the plan and potentially put the improvements into the 2021 budget. Federal cost share funds may be available for a project and he will continue to discuss this with SDGF&P staff. The board agreed with this strategy and will work on design and improvements in 2020.

New Business

Economic Impact of tournaments using sports facilities – Farnsworth gave a handout and information showing the economic impact of several sports tournaments using City facilities. The softball fast pitch JO tournament had 31 visiting teams and 8 local teams June 28-30 generating an estimated \$183,520 in economic activity. This info was from PEDCO Director Jim Protexter. The Joe Kirley baseball tournament June 22-23 had 7 visiting teams and generated an estimated \$41,440, the July 6-8 border battle tournament at Hyde Stadium generated an estimated \$14,100 The women's state softball tourney July 20-21 had 21 visiting teams and generated \$45,360 The Post 8 Legion Region tournament July 19-21 generated \$22,200 and the Hillsvieview SDGA tourney July 15-23 generated \$105,565 These total an estimated \$412,185 in economic activity for the community. Farnsworth stated it is important to keep the City sports facilities in a good state of repair and annually invest in improvements as the return on investment comes back to the City and its business climate.

Vandalism in Parks – Staff discussed with the board recent incidents of vandalism in the parks system. A discussion was held on ideas to curb this. Farnsworth stated it is costing an average of 20 to 30 hrs. a week for staff to repair, replace the damage. One operational change the staff will implement when ready is closing all outdoor public bathrooms at 10PM and open them at 7AM. Signage must be made before this can be implemented. The board supported this operational change. The campground bathroom would remain open for the visiting campers.

YMCA/Rec Dept. report – Cheap is working on a plan to replace the sand in the sand filters at the indoor aquatic center pool, a contract will be signed with Associated pools to do the work and scheduled in August. Cheap stated the outdoor pool will close prior to start of school but an official closing date has not been set. Two weeks remain on session II of summer rec programs and they are going well. Cheap has had as high as 24 attend the outdoor pool water exercise classes.

In dialogue an update was given on a sink hole developing in Griffin Park and several tree limbs were down from a recent high wind storm. Seasonal staff are working well and they normally leave the park department around mid-August.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM. The next meeting of the board will be August 15 at 3:30pm. John Simpson will chair this meeting.

Respectfully,

Tom Farnsworth, Director