

**Minutes of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board meeting
December 3, 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. There were no guests attending.

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

Seiner moved, second by Dean to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2020 meeting. Motion carried. The board did not meet in November.

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

Old Business

Skate Park –

The board discussed plans for replacement of the current skate park at Griffin Park. The five year plan has earmarked in 2023 to build a new modern skate park to replace the current one. The current skate park was built on site over 20 years ago and may not be meeting safety standards and staff is not sure how or if it can be reused or saved. Seiner stated we need the citizens to take some ownership and buy in to a new skate park if one is built. The project should have some community support. Farnsworth stated the nice weather is allowing demolition of the new pool site, which would include removing Skate Park. A motion was made by Seiner, second by Fabel to declare the current skate park surplus, remove it and continue planning for a new modern skate park. Motion carried. Farnsworth will discuss with the City Administrator on how best to carry out this request.

Pickle Ball –

The board continued discussion on pickle ball courts. Seiner stated he has asked the pickle ball users to bring a more defined plan on goals, fundraising, costs of the project and timeframe to the January Park board meeting. Seiner indicated the user group may ask the City to include basketball hoops on the design of four courts with the hopes the City will do some cost share on the project. Details on the partnership or expectations from the City and the pickle ball users need to be defined. Simpson asked the board members to think about this and cost sharing. The current park system does not have any new modern basketball courts for citizens to use. Farnsworth and Seiner will ask the pickle ball representative to attend the January board meeting.

Dog Park -

Farnsworth reported a grant was submitted for \$2,500 for the purpose of buying trees for the dog park tree buffer. The City worked with Tarrah Sonnenschein to submit the grant. City should hear in January if the grant is awarded. Templeton will continue to work with the Dog park reps to encourage this project to advance so fencing and site design can be completed. Covid delayed their fundraising efforts.

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TAP Grant update –

Farnsworth informed the board a zoom presentation was given in November to the SDDOT and review committee. The City will be informed in January if they are successful in getting a grant. This is for a proposed 10ft. wide concrete trail from the Steamboat park amphitheater to La Framboise state park. If successful the project will be slotted into the five year plan for the year it can be constructed. The City is responsible for 18% cost share.

2020 Plan of Work –

Staff briefed the board on the continued progress they are making with the 2020 plan of work for the year. The final project, the construction of the replacement shelter in Griffin Park in the vicinity of the sink hole, was being completed. This was the final project. Tree work is ongoing and parks staff are doing demolition work at the new pool site, removing trees, border posts, kiosks and playground toys that must be removed to make room for the new pool. Farnsworth encouraged the board to drive through Griffin Park and note the view and appearance with the posts removed. Farnsworth stated many of the 2021 projects are moving along as best they can and reviewed these with the board.

The board discussed the shelter by Mary House in Griffin Park. The shelter is fenced off as the engineer report deemed it unsafe. A new plan will need to be decided on but staff will wait on demolition until further discussion with the Administrator and Commissioner. Farnsworth stated the repair of Capitol Creek wall is being done this year which could free up funds scheduled for this work in 2021 to be redirected to a new shelter.

New Business

YMCA/Recreation update –

Simpson called on Recreation Superintendent Cheap for reports on activities. Cheap stated she will be taking her plan to rent out the rec facility for birthday parties to the City Commission. Cheap reviewed the many activities that can now be offered to citizens. Disc golf baskets have been removed from Steamboat Park due to construction of the Water Treatment Plant. Farnsworth informed the user groups that the course can be reconfigured after construction is done.

Fabel reported the November 7-8 swim meet went well despite Covid restrictions. The Y will plan for another half marathon in 2021. Operations at the YMCA have been a challenge with Covid.

Five Year Plan –

The board was given a handout showing the projects listed in the five year plan. Farnsworth reviewed the items coming up for discussion or for consideration for the 2022 budget year. The 2021 projects are already set and approved. The 2022 budget items need to be prioritized and final by June of 2021 to meet budget deadlines. Hanig asked about when the board can prioritize or vote on these as in the past. Farnsworth recommended perhaps in March or April to start the prioritization. This will allow time to see if TAP grant is funded and if other projects are brought up.

Simpson concluded the meeting with dialogue comments from the board.
Motion by Hanig, second by Seiner to adjourn at 4:55PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Farnsworth, Director