

PARKS & RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

February 16, 2021 5:45 pm
Via Zoom

Members Present:

Steve Ball, Chair
Jen Vogt-Erickson
Whitney Sauer
Amy Leach
Tony Segura
Jason Howland (Ex-officio)

Members Absent:

Jodi Hartman
Rich Yost

Staff in Attendance:

Joe Grossman, Superintendent of Parks
Jennifer Davis, Recreation Program Supervisor
Afton Wacholz, Recreation Administrative Assistant

Others in Attendance:

None

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 5:47p.m. by Chair Steve Ball.

Adopt Agenda:

Tony Segura made the motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting and Jen Vogt-Erickson seconded the motion. On roll call vote, the board voted in favor of said motion 5-0. Motion declared passed.

Approval of the Minutes:

Jen Vogt-Erickson made the motion to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2021 meeting and Tony Segura seconded the motion. On roll call vote, the board voted in favor of said motion 5-0. Motion declared passed.

Public Items:

None

Action/Discussion Items:

Chair Steve Ball discussed the status of bringing back an ice rink to the Troy-Hammer Park. He has had discussions with community members in that neighborhood who would like to see an outdoor rink brought back due to the increased numbers of kids and also grandparents with grandchildren living in the area. Joe Grossman shared with the board that the rink at Troy-Hammer, which last had short hockey boards and a pleasure rink, was eliminated back in 2009 when the housing market took a crash. The City needed to cut costs and eliminated several outdoor rinks and left the four main rinks with the most activity. These same four rinks at Academy, Lakeview, Hawthorne and Hayek remain still today. Joe stated that Parks does not have any extra rink boards but there is always a possibility of flooding a pleasure rink. Steve asked staff to price new high boards and lights for the park as the park has never

had lights. The warming house is currently being utilized for some storage and maintenance work but could be opened back up for use if directed. Jason Howland addressed the situation with concerns of the potential costs. Currently the council is asking staff to reduce costs as much as possible and to add a project of this size to a park that was eliminated for low use may not be the best use of funds at this point. There was further discussion on trying to add just a pleasure rink and evaluate the use for next winter.

Old Business:

None

Recreation: Report given by Jennifer Davis as follows;

- Jenny and Afton, along with two National Honor Society students from the HS represented the Recreation department for the Big Freeze event this past weekend. Due to the frigid temperatures the outdoor skating and sledding were cancelled however staff helped pass out S'more kits and Valentine's craft kits.
- Jenny is kicking off the Lea the Leprechaun event for St Patrick's Day. Between March 1-15 clues will be posted social media directing the community to search for Lea the Leprechaun at a City park. Once found those participating should take a selfie and post on social media or send in an email to Recreation staff to be eligible for a prize. There are plans to do a similar event for Easter.
- Jenny has sent out returning staff letters. They are slowly coming back in but there is continued concern for lifeguards. Seasonal jobs openings have been posted as well.
- Staff is still gathering ideas for summer brochures. Instead of buying several pages in the Community Education brochure, there may only be two pages with listed Recreation items with direction to visit our website and social media for updated summer activities.
- Staff is waiting for public health approval for Easter activities such as an Easter egg hunt and the Easter bunny making home deliveries. Staff plans to offer modified versions of the normal events if at all possible.
- May 28th is tentatively the first date of Thursdays on Fountain.
- Theater elevator repair will take place starting March 15 and should take up to two weeks. The water fountain was reinstalled at the correct height. The electric entry furnace was also replaced.
- Plans have begun for opening up the aquatic center this summer. Staff is certain that there will need to be modifications made to the current operations. There will be a need to restructure the scheduling of open swim as well as swim lessons to meet the required guidelines. A quote has been received from Joseph Company to repair the wall and will be brought to council early March.

Parks: Report given by Joe Grossman as follows;

- Parks staff met with the Marion Ross Statue committee to work through the final plans of the placement for the bench and statue in front of the Marion Ross Theater. Staff stated this will bring a nice new curb appeal to that corner. The dedication is scheduled to take place around the 4th of July holiday.
- The school district has confirmed their need to utilize three fields at Snyder this field for high school softball.
- Season staff position openings have now been advertised.
- Tree inspections and trimming continue.
- Continued work on outdoor rinks. The end of the rink season will be coming up soon due to the intense power of the sun that we will now be seeing. Steve ball requested that they be maintained as long as possible and staff stated that is always the plan until the grass begins to show through.
- Staff is pricing cantilevered dugouts for Snyder with Pro-Manufacturing.

- Snow removal, equipment maintenance and purchasing of new equipment.
- Pickle ball court will be repainted late spring, early summer.
- Staff is completely safety training.

City Arena: Report given by Afton Wacholz as follows;

- Jim Osmundson has left his position at the Arena and is now working with the Parks Department. This position opening has now been posted.
- The City Arena will be the host site to two Minnesota Youth Hockey post season tournaments. This will add roughly 30 games to the schedule.
- WSB was down this week to review the arena roof project and the needs. Further discussion will be had on the condition and needs for repair.
- There are plans to keep the Colstrup ice in until July 2nd to accommodate summer user groups: MN Mavericks, Figure Skating Club, THC and 4X4 league.

Senior Center: Report given by staff as follows;

- No new updates

Board Member Items:

None

Adjournment: Jen Vogt-Erickson made a motion to adjourn the Park Board meeting, and Tony Segura seconded the motion. On roll call vote, the board voted in favor of said motion 5-0. Motion declared passed. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Afton Wacholz
Acting Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Secretary

Approved:

Steve Ball
Park & Recreation Advisory Board Chairman