

**Minutes of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board meeting  
February 25, 2021**

The meeting of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order by Chairman John Simpson at 3:35 PM in the Training room of City hall. Social distancing was observed by members spreading out in the meeting room. Guests attending were Mendell Miller, President of the Pierre Area Pickle ball Association (PAPBA) and Malinda Hetzel.

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

Arbach moved, second by Hanig to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

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

**Old Business**

**Pickle Ball –**

Chairman Simpson introduced our guests and together with the board discussed the final plan with costs to build four pickle ball courts in Griffin Park, location is west of the tennis court they currently play pickle ball at. The Pierre Area Pickleball Association (PAPBA) had done a good job of defining costs, presenting map illustrations of the courts overlaid on the location site and overall how they intend to approach the project with raising funds. The board had requested this additional information and their proposal was sent to the board in advance as well as hard copies presented at the meeting. Details on the partnership or expectations from the City and the pickle ball users was discussed. A motion was made by Templeton, second by Arbach to recommend to the Mayor and full City Commission the following for this private / public project:

1. The PAPBA be allowed to use the park land adjacent to the west tennis court in Griffin park to construct four pickleball courts in the year 2023.
2. The PAPBA may continue their fundraising plans to reach their proposed goal of \$250,000 for construction of the four courts.
3. The City will consider a private public partnership in the project by the Park board earmarking \$50,000 for the project in the 2023 budget year.
4. The City \$50,000 would be used to cover engineering costs, construction documents and administration of the project by an outside engineering firm.
5. The City Park board will do research and get public feedback on whether an outdoor basketball hoop will be a part of the project and considered in the final design and City share of funds.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**TAP Grant –**

Farnsworth shared an award letter with the board from the SDDOT stating the City has been selected for funding for up to \$364,715 in Federal TA funding. This is for the construction of the Pierre Causeway Shared Use path. The City match would be \$80,330.78 Farnsworth said the City has three years to build the project but he will slot the funding in the 2022 budget year. Simpson stated this is great news and a great project, especially when the match requirement was 18% of the total project.

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### **Pierre Tennis Association –**

The board was informed by memo from Eric Weiss, President of the Pierre Tennis Association (PTA), that he has asked the donor of a large donation recently given to the Tennis Association to confirm the dollar amount of the contribution to the PTA. President Eric Weiss agrees the current concession stand, storage shed at the Griffin Park tennis complex could be improved and may be how the donation is used. Weiss will inform the Park board when he has confirmation of the donation before any further action is taken.

### **Skate Park –**

Commissioner Johnson discussed with the board that the City may consider funding a new skate park in the current year vs. moving the current skate park and trying to reuse it. Johnson has asked Farnsworth to research information on modern, above ground skate parks and discuss with engineering staff a location in Griffin Park that would not impact underground utilities. A location map was shared with the board. American Ramp Company has been asked to send examples of new skate parks and costs. These will be forwarded to the board to consider. Commissioner Johnson would like to have a dialogue with some skate park users at a future park board meeting to show design and costs before a final vote of the board. The board thanked Commissioner Johnson for this opportunity vs waiting additional years as stated in the board five year plan.

### **Griffin Park Campground Improvements and Fees –**

This item was tabled to carry forward to the March meeting.

### **Outdoor Pool project –**

Farnsworth gave the board the revised project timeline. Construction will still take place this summer but pool will not open until spring of 2023. Engineers from both the City and Burbach pool consultants have requested additional geotechnical work to assist in how the foundations will be built in which all the pool structures rest on. This is very important to avoid cracking and settlement of any structure on the site. Simpson and others stated the benefit of this is new water from the water treatment plant will be available in spring of 2023 to fill the pool and avoid staining issues.

## **New Business**

### **Recreation update –**

Simpson called on Recreation Superintendent Cheap for reports on activities. Cheap explained her format for the upcoming summer rec sessions and that she is building out programs for the summer. Cheap stated the Underwater Easter egg hunt at the aquatic center pool would be March 28. Cheap is also teaching senior citizen classes.

### **Five Year Plan document –**

Staff and the board did a review of the five year plan. 2021 project updates were given. Staff will begin to get estimated costs for the 2022 projects. The board will need to help prioritize projects for the Commissioner with the goal of having this done by June 1. This work will continue at future board meetings.

Motion by Hanig, second by Arbach to adjourn at 5:00PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Farnsworth, Director