

Minutes of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

July 20th, 2023

The meeting of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order by Chairman Templeton at 4:00 PM in the Training Room of City Hall.

Members attending were: Rachel Arbach, Jeff Hanig, Leah DeMers, Krisi Potter, Don Templeton. Also present were: Parks Superintendent Jay Jensen and Park Crew Leader Nick Schultz

Absent were: YMCA CEO Aaron Fabel and Recreation Superintendent Torry Zeller

Potter moved, second by Hanig to approve the minutes of the June 15th, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

Potter Moved, second by Templeton to approve the agenda for this meeting on July 20th, 2023. Motion carried.

A vacant spot is in search by Tipton and Mayor Harding.

Reports:

YMCA - Fabel absent

Rec. Dept. - Zeller absent

Parks Dept. - Jensen reported the finishing of the Band Shelter and disc golf holes in Steamboat Park that were taken out with the new Water Treatment plant are being finished as well, just waiting on signage for those. Grass for new water main was replanted. Jensen reported horseshoe area being spruced up for the State Senior Games being held in Pierre in September.

Old Business

Band Shelter Update - Tipton and Jensen reported new sidewalk in. Leveled out small parking lot, and took out drinking fountain and slab. Suggestion of a new name since City Band is too large to perform there anymore. Tipton is working on numbers and budget to replace small bridge on the creek across from the pool. DeMers asked about which bridge is being replaced and it was clarified that the bridge closest to the river on Capitol Creek won't be able to be replaced due to flood plain issues. Hanig asked about reservations of the band shelter and Tipton reported it is open to the public

New Business

Griffin Park Water Line - Discussed in Parks Department above.

Disc Golf Restored in Steamboat - Just need signs for the holes and numbers for it to be good to go. Done digging in Steamboat for the most part.

2024 Budget Request - Tipton reported Capitol Creek bridge is a work in progress, estimate cost around \$8,000 to replace the bridge. The play structure for Steamboat park is still in progress, the estimate cost is about \$132,000 and hopefully coming out of the contingency fund left over from the Water Treatment Plant. Tipton reported that the final play structure will be reviewed and approved by the board.

The big projects for next year are resurfacing the tennis courts in Griffin Park and replacing the play structure in Steamboat Park. The tennis court resurfacing will be a collaborative cost share from a grant, the Pierre Tennis Association, and Pierre School District. The cost for the city is pretty minimal with this cost share.

Commissioner Johnson reported that there wasn't a ton of money for Park budget this year. The pool budget takes a lot of the park budget. Operating the pool will estimate to take about \$750,000 with more guards, full-time concessions, etc. Discussion of the pool possibly bringing in revenue for the rest of the city with hotels, restaurants, and so forth. Concern of shutting down the pool for events such as swim meets. Arbach discussed how it was designed with the 50 meter pool separate from the rest of the play structures so that you can host a swim meet without shutting down the entire pool, still creating revenue, much like Aberdeen does.

Templeton asked about replacement of lights at softball fields. Tipton reported problems with new light poles being taller and needing deeper footings in the ground. The water table is about 7 feet down and poles need to be dug about 20 feet. Potential for this to be a 2025 budget request.

Tile for the Aquatic Center was discussed, but a hydrochloric acid to help clean the tile rather than replacing the entire tile. The thought is to try this process to clean the tile and replace the small spots that are broken will save a lot in the budget.

Commissioner Johnson reported how impressed he is with all of the new management in the Parks system and how everything has continued without much hold up.

Dialogue

DeMers asked about the Boys and Girls Club gym own by the Pierre and the cost for the city. Commissioner clarified groups being involved in the budget process of requesting for improvements in the building if need be.

Templeton brought up the pool and possible revenue or expenses for the Parks Department. Working on pool fees for patrons. It is challenging to compare to other municipalities as there are many different working parts that go into the cost of the pool.

Tipton showed a draft for tree sponsorships and bench sponsorships. DeMers suggested upping the \$250 honorary donation. Discussion of trying to stay local to buy the trees if possible. Potter suggested more of a price range (\$250 - 500) to give people more option. Schultz asked about patrons picking trees and made suggestions about trees that won't be the best fit in our parks. The bench sponsorship (\$1,700) is to also help cover the concrete work that will need to go with it. Motion by Potter to change the tree sponsorship to a dollar range around \$250-500 and approve the donation flier. Second by DeMers. Motion carried.

Motion by DeMers seconded by Hanig to adjourn the meeting at 4:56pm. Motion carried.

The next meeting is on August 17th at 4:00 pm at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Arbach, Secretary