

**Minutes of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board meeting  
August 15, 2021**

The meeting of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order by Chairman John Simpson at 3:34 PM in the Training room of City hall. Social distancing was observed by members spreading out in the meeting room.

Members attending were: Don Templeton, Buddy Seiner, Jeff Hanig, and Rachel Arbach. Also present was Commissioner Todd Johnson, Recreation Superintendent Mindy Cheap, Parks Crew Leader Toby Stertz and Administrative Assistant Susan LaFave.

Seiner moved, second by Templeton to approve the minutes of the July 15th, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

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

**Old Business**

**Fish Cleaning Station –**

Chairman Simpson question if anyone has seen a draft of the JPA. No one has seen a draft of the JPA. Hanig was not able to attend the last meeting. Seiner got a call from Maxwell that Fort Pierre has entered into an agreement with GFP and will begin raising money. Commissioner Johnson was in a meeting with Maxwell and thought about possibly fundraising in conjunction with Fort Pierre. Commissioner Johnson advised Fort Pierre's site is by the boat ramp and in the flood plain. They are thinking the total will be around \$300,000. In Pierre, we have a site that already has utilities so our cost should be less. We have not received a cost estimate from GFP and we are waiting on their response prior to making a decision. We also could have a similar issue with flood plain. Commissioner Johnson thought if it was marketed correctly with 2 stations we could have a positive outcome and not try to compete.

**Pickle Ball Courts–**

Seiner stated a nice commitment was received from Delta Dental/Scott & Julia Jones in the amount of \$50,000 in memory of Jim Russell. Jim started playing pickle ball when diagnosed with COPD and he was a board member of Delta Dental. We will mention Jim and Char Russell in naming the facility. Seiner said with that gift total committed is now \$165,000 with \$250,000 being the goal. Two grant applications have been submitted and Seiner feels confident in our award. Goal is to install May 2022. Runner Sports build is lower than anticipated and core and soil samples have already been taken. When results are received, dirt work can begin.

**Griffin Park Beach Bathrooms—**

Stertz said the building is on site they are waiting for the plumbing to be hooked up. He said that should be accomplished by mid-September. As the parks department usually starts winterizing bathrooms on October 1<sup>st</sup> he questioned the use of the bathroom this year. He would like to at least test prior to blowing out to make sure no problems. He would like Wheelhouse on site for the initial blow out. He also mentioned the facility is designed with auto locks that can be set to lock and unlock at certain times. He mentioned it is a nice concrete facility with steel toilets/sinks. Hanig mentioned it may be a good sample to use when designing the fish cleaning station.

## **New Business**

### **Sports Complex Full Schedule of Use—**

Cheap handed out a schedule of use for the sports complex. Use for Co-Ed softball began August 11 and the facility is in constant use until mid-October.

### **Sports Complex Improvements – East Side –**

Stertz explained JO Softball wanted to upgrade the area in between the 2 south fields on the east side. Darron Wheelhouse put \$600 on account at Northwest Pipe for materials the city park staff would need for the project. The parks department completed the following in that area at a cost of \$642: put in irrigation and installed a surplus batting cage near the already existing concrete pad. Volunteers put up the net that encloses the batting cage. There is already a water system near so can water the areas. Commissioner Johnson added SDHAA is working on making girls fast pitch a sanctioned sport. They are currently deciding on a season. There is already 16 cities with teams. They will vote in December on a season which if the spring season is picked would begin in the spring of 2022. Long term plan would be to rehab the area between the fields. Stertz added on the west side the walk path is scheduled for an overlay in mid-September.

### **YMCA/Rec Dept—**

Cheap said Saturday 8/28 YMCA is assisting with the Eisnach 5K that begins at the Chamber. And the YMCA marathon is in October. For the recreation department, she advised adult kickball begins on August 31<sup>st</sup>. There are 8 teams and they will play for 6 weeks then a tournament.

## **Dialogue**

### **Dog Park—**

Templeton gave an update. Trees have been planted. Next they are looking for a fence. The dog park committee has \$6,000 in savings. There is a rancher in Jones County selling a large fence. Asking \$8/linear foot. The size of the fence is more than the dog park needs and the rancher is unwilling to sell partial. Commissioner Johnson thought that maybe 3 entities could go in on it together. He stated the rancher only put the corner posts in concrete so it will be easier to move. Commissioner Johnson also noted that he was recently at a Rotary Club meeting and they have an annual project they fund. Chairperson Simpson advised the Rotary Club has grants of \$2,000-\$4,000 yearly and an annual signature project. They funded a treehouse project at the Discovery Center in the amount of \$50,000. The other local clubs (Exchange, Kiwanis, and Lions) were also mentioned. Templeton advised he would pass the information on to the dog park committee.

### **Emerald Ash Borer—**

Stertz handed out the Pierre Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness and Response Plan. He asked that members look over the document for discussion at the next meeting. He stated the parks department has taken a total of 239 trees out. He was questioned about trees along Wells Ave that appear to be dead. He advised they are locust trees and are the responsibility of the property owner.

Motion by Seiner, second by Arbach to adjourn the meeting at 4:20 pm.

Next meeting is changed from September 16, 2021 to September 30, 2021 at 3:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Susan LaFave, Administrative Assistant