

Park and Recreation Board Meeting
Monday, March 11, 2024
Minutes

Members Present: Art Taft, Kortny Maurer, Jim Sargent, Erin Borland, Pat Carroll, and Kevin Angland

Staff Present: Kevin Vining, Steve Herrig, Olivia Hollis, Todd Seymanski and Sarah Griffin

Guest: None

Board Liaison: Shannon Wilson

Meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Kortny Maurer to correct the spelling of her name in the February 12, 2024 Minutes. Motion was seconded and carried, 6-0.

Board motioned to approve corrected February 12, 2024 minutes as written. Motion was seconded and carried, 6-0

OLD BUSINESS

- Steve Herrig, Park and Recreation Director
 - Director's report
 - Aquatic and Recreation Center
 - Construction is still moving along well for early summer completion.
 - We are planning on a June 15th opening date.
 - We have posted three of the professional positions to hire.
 - Park District Updates
 - Park District projects are on hold for now, until we can be assured that all expenses of the new recreational center can be met.
 - Fee Update
 - At the last Commission Meeting, staff participated in a special work session with the commission to review the upcoming proposed park fees.
 - At the March 19th Commission Meeting, two Public Hearings will be held, for the Park Fees and Golf Fees. Once these fees are approved, the new pricing can be implemented throughout the department.
 - Art Taft asked how board members should respond to the question of why Military members have to pay a fee to use the facility. Steve Herrig explained to the board that from the very beginning of the partnership with Malmstrom there was an understanding that their portion of the grant would not be part of the operational expense of running the facility, thus fees would still need to be collected by all members of the community in order to operate the facility year round; the use of the facility for Military training is a different scenario than general membership use.

- Golf Course
 - The golf courses (CourseCo) is looking at wanting to enter into a long term lease with the City.
 - Since there is no longer a Golf Board, staff will bring this information to this board as it develops to review.
 - Pat Carroll asked why there was no longer any cross country skiing at the courses. Steve explained that they no longer allowed this due to Eagle Falls now being a course that is open year round.

NEW BUSINESS

- Peace Pole
 - The Rotary Club recently had a peace pole donated to their organization. They approached Park and Recreation to see if it was something that we would like to install in one of our parks.
 - Steve Herrig spoke with Mark Willmarth and they thought in Lions Park by the Labyrinth would be a nice spot to install it.

Motion was made to support the project of installing the peace pole in a City Park. Motion was seconded and carried, 6-0.

- MTRPA
 - 2024 annual MTRPA conference in Billings is at the end of April.
 - Three staff from Park and Recreation will attend.
- Ice Breaker
 - Ice Breaker is Sunday April, 28.
 - If you don't want to participate we would love to have you sign up as a volunteer.
- Easter Egg Hunt
 - Easter Egg Hunt in Gibson is Saturday, March 30.
 - Would love to have board members volunteer.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Department Updates – Kevin Vining
 - Getting seasonal employees interviewed and hired for the spring/summer season.
 - Staff spent a lot of time doing snow removal throughout the parks and trail system.
 - Still maintaining the ducks at Honker Hilton.
 - Staff is working on getting all the equipment ready for the spring/summer season.
 - Working through the logistics of Ice Breaker.
 - Parks Foreman, Jay Rowton retired.
 - Still working on the Bike Pump Track project.
 - There might be some obstacles they need to work through, such as additional permitting. The property they selected is on a 100 year flood plain.
 - Staff continues to work on maintenance, vandalism and repairs throughout the parks.
 - Sent a few of our staff to get trained and certified in flatwork concrete work.
- Department Updates – Olivia Hollis
 - Routine Maintenance, lots of snow removal.
 - Seasonal employee, Dom, started today for the season.

- Working on getting approval for a second, 3 month seasonal position.
- Department Updates – Todd Seymanski
 - Continue to work at cutting trees down.
 - Down to 10 in the Boulevard District.
 - Met with the staff at the golf courses, hopefully weather holds out that we can start trimming out at the course.
 - Have all the summer/spring seasonal employees hired for the season.
 - Have an Arborist enrolled in college to complete their CDL training requirements.

PARK BOARD

- Jim Sargent updated the board that he had reached out to the schools about getting them involved in the lighting of Overlook Park at Christmas time. The schools showed interest but wanted to know: When the students would be able to start decorating and when they would need to be removed, would the lights be purchased or need to be fundraised, and would there be a place for storage. Kevin Vining explained that the logistics of the process could all be coordinated.
- Erin Borland made an announcement to the board that Farmers Market Board is working towards bringing back the Night Market. Their goal is to set it up in the upper lot of the new rec center. It would only run during July and August, on Thursday nights, from 6:00 – 8:30 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None present

Next Meeting April 8, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.