

Park and Recreation Board Meeting
Monday, April 8, 2024
Minutes

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

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

Guest: None

Board Liaison: Shannon Wilson

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board motioned to approve corrected March 11, 2024 minutes as written. Motion was seconded and carried, 7-0

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.
 - This week doing the leak test on the pools. Will fill and empty both pools to check for leaking.
 - Irrigation will be tested this week.
 - Mid to end of month the track and gym flooring should be installed.
 - The main focus right now is hiring of staff.
 - Jim Sargent asked about the tiling in the center. Was it a local firm? Steve said that our project wasn't bid by any local companies. CEM was awarded the bid. On that note, about 80% of the sub-contractors were local to Great Falls and about 90% to Montana.
 - 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. Probably get them rolling again by the end of the year.
 - Adopt a Park
 - Right now the most active Park is Grande Vista. But staff is working with different organizations to get this program more promoted.
 - Summer Events
 - Farmers Market is expanding to Thursday Nights at Scheel's Aim High Big Sky.
 - Adult Leagues – Social opportunity for adults.
 - Working on expanding programs.
 - Ice Breaker
 - Moving along with the Ice Breaker preparation.

- Taking registrations and continuing to promote.

NEW BUSINESS

- Cell Phone Tower
 - Steve Herrig has been approached by PLN Telecom to install a mono-pine cell tower in the Dudley Anderson Park, where Verizon's current tower is located.
 - Verizon is going to remove their tower.
 - 85' tree, completely fenced with liner.
 - PLN is working with Verizon.
 - The current proposed fees are not set, still under negotiation.
 - Shannon asked if this was related to Verizon's comments of the City not allowing 5G into the City. Steve said this was not related to that topic.
 - This would allow us to gain some additional revenue to use for other park projects.
 - Art wanted to know if we allow one in, do we have to allow all of them- to other parks. Steve explained that was the instance when we were talking with TDS about putting in towers in parks.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Department Updates – Kevin Vining
 - Slowly start the irrigation systems up. Still cautious with the weather.
 - Getting busy doing spring cleaning in Parks.
 - Released the ducks back into the pond.
 - Worked on getting the Easter Egg Hunt ready.
 - Removing snow fence from the parks.
 - Working with Art on a Grande Vista project.
 - Working on getting Multi Sports ready for the season.
 - Hiring is going well, still have a few more positions that we would like to fill.
 - Working on getting some new trees for Wadsworth Pond area.
- Department Updates – Olivia Hollis
 - General routine items: Gravel removal, weeds, trash etc.
 - The three month position is now posted.
 - Working on memorial and art work projects.
 - Sept 3 – Oct 15 Trails closure for North Bank Stabilization project.
 - Continuing to work on the GSI mapping project.
- Department Updates – Todd Seymanski
 - Temporary laborers started today.
 - Started stump grinding last week.
 - Have more contractors bidding on tree trimming.
- Recreation Center
 - Continuing to work on the transition process from the CRC to the new facility.
 - Getting programing ready for summer programs and camps.

PARK BOARD

- Shannon wanted to know if they had heard from the DNRC about the Gibson Park Tree Grant? Todd said that they had not heard anything yet.

- Shannon said that she has seen a lot push back on social media about the new fees for the Recreation Center. Staff mentioned explained the process of the new fee structure and anyone could call for further explanation.
- Shannon asked how Kranz Park was progressing. Kevin said that met with Rocky Mountain on their starting schedule today.
- Sarge had a list of questions about the Christmas lighting project. Steve told him to just email him the list of questions and he would respond.
- Sarge made the announcement that Wednesday is the Confero fundraiser, April 10th at the Expo Park, \$25.00 per ticket.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None present

Next Meeting May 13, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.