

**Park and Recreation Board Meeting**  
**Monday, May 13, 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, Erica McNamee, Todd Seymanski and Sarah Griffin

Guest: None

Board Liaison: Shannon Wilson

Meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Board motioned to approve corrected April 8, 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, starting to wrap up a lot of areas.
      - There was a little bit of a delay with the pool company, but they are back on site working to complete their part of the construction.
      - Currently working on getting all of the punch list items done, with the expectation of the pools.
      - Landscaping starts tomorrow.
      - Flooring (all) has been/getting installed throughout the week.
      - July 20, Family night at the Rec Center.
    - Adopt a Park
      - Have had a few more organizations reach out about the program.
      - Lions Park group is going to paint the pavilion in May.
      - Quantity Life Concepts are adopting the Trail. They will do a different section each week.
    - Summer Events
      - Farmers Market is expanding to Thursday Nights at Scheel's Aim High Big Sky, 6-8:30pm, starting July 11.
      - Lions Park Fun Fest, August 10.
      - Trails Day, June 1.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Wadsworth RFP
  - Branches on the Spectrum and Youth Archery have both been interested in space in Wadsworth.
  - Going to send out a RFP for Wadsworth.

- Maps provided to show the areas where the groups would like to utilize.
- Steve said that he would bring the RFP to the Board next month.
- This would make a total of 5 groups utilizing Wadsworth Park.
- Bee City USA
  - Information provided (handout).
  - Our budget and staff are currently static, not sure what the Department could/how commit to.
  - Promoting pollination and conversation.
  - Steve Herrig asked that everyone review the material and we will review at next board meeting.

## **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Department Updates – Kevin Vining
  - Getting the irrigation systems charged up and ready to go.
  - End of March long term Foreman retired and have hired James Rentfro as the new Foreman.
  - Have ordered chips ordered for United Way volunteer projects.
  - Through a grant, we were able to get 8 trees planted at Wadsworth for Arbor Day.
  - Revamping the mowing crew schedules to be more efficient.
  - Kranz Park pavilion up and installed, just need to finish up some irrigation and sod work.
  - Hiring is going well, still have a few more positions that we would like to fill.
  - Working with a group of volunteers from Home Depot, for a project at the Veterans Memorial.
  - Wadsworth Park hosted a large tournament for disc golf.
  - Working with GSI mapping group to map all the parks and trail assets.
  - Peace Pole is going into Lions Park, Pat C. has made a few benches for the area.
- Department Updates – Olivia Hollis
  - Getting into the swing of maintenance.
  - The three month employee starts next Monday.
  - RET funded an E-bike and Trailer, to maintain the South Shore trails.
  - New art and memorials being installed throughout the trail system.
  - Applied for a Kubota Grant for the Caboose deck repair.
  - Across the River at Black Eagle they are installing a barge outlet. Construction over the next three months. As soon as we receive further information we will post a Press Release.
  - June 1 – Crossing the Dam Event.
  - State Park area of the Trail (East of Rainbow Dam), there will be temporary closure for power line replacement.
  - Groups are interested in Adopt a Park for the trails.
- Department Updates – Todd Seymanski
  - Fully staffed for seasonal help.
  - Arbor Day was on April 26<sup>th</sup>, planted 8 trees out at Wadsworth.
  - Finished stumping today, started picking up and backfilling a couple weeks ago, should have project completed by June 1.
  - Trimming at Carter Park.

- Gibson Roots Rival, is a group that is being formed to help raise funds for Gibson Park trees.
- Recreation Center, Erica McNamee and Jessica Compton
  - Summer Trails Day, Park and Rec is going to do a virtual scavenger hunt on the trail for prizes.
  - Hiring summer staff for pools and camps.
  - Working on training staff. Just held a lifeguard certification last week.
  - Had 24 participate in a Pickleball tournament.
  - Having our last Noonball on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - Splash pad is on hold. Demo and equipment contracts are completed, but now we will have to bid the installation.
  - Continuing to work on the transition process from the CRC to the new facility.

**PARK BOARD**

- Jim Sargent – Ice Breaker
  - What the option was for having dogs in the race. Steve said they are not allowed.
  - Why didn't we have lunches? He had several people ask. Erica explained that is the new direction that we are going.
  - Sarge mentioned that there needs to be better organization of the warm ups.
- Jim Sargent wants to know how we can help eliminate the seagulls in Gibson Park. Kevin explained that they are a protected bird, and we would have to go through the State. There is a few options, but they would require State approval.
- Jim Sargent wanted to know could we remove the goose poo from Gibson? Kevin explained that staff does remove it, it's just too labor intensive to do it daily.
- Kevin England wanted to know if we had any parks with lights. Steve said that we don't have any lights, with the expectation of lighting on the back part of Gibson. It was past practices to keep the parks dark to keep people out of the parks.
- Erin Borland mentioned that June 1 is the opening of Farmers Market.

**PUBLIC COMMENT – None present**

**Next Meeting June 10, 2024**

**Meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.**