



Forest City

PARKS & RECREATION

MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
Monday, August 14, 2023, 6:00 PM
Rec Office

CALL TO ORDER

Called to order by Mike Johnson. Board Members present: Missy Reynolds, Linda Keifer, Maurie Tomke. Also present were: Rec Superintendent, Sue Edmondson, Park Superintendent, Todd Espeland, and Rec Program Director, Brett Geelan. Guest, Karl Wooldridge joined the meeting at 6:45. Absent: Tom Clarey.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA

None. Amended at 6:45 to add "Renaming the Civic Auditorium"

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Motion made by Reynolds. Second by Tomke. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF INVOICES

Motion made by Reynolds. Second by Tomke. Motion carried. Amended to include an additional \$300 to the Park's department invoices.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Summer BB/SB Discussion**
 - Tomke led the discussion about how to help the programs become better by creating practice plans for coaches
 - Discussion of having hard copies available &/or online links
 - Board advised Brett to start with T-ball and look into progressing from there
 - The Board thanked Brett for doing this

- **Future Staff Planning**
 - Johnson led the discussion and addressed the question "What is our process for filling any vacated staff positions?"
 - The Board discussed staffing needs of each department and is asking Sue, Brett, and Todd to think about what is needed, in terms of staffing, in the future.
 - Sue does not foresee any lifeguard staffing issues next year but discussed the possible need for a "Head Lifeguard" and the need for a part-time maintenance person.

Todd is in need of a 7 or 8 month employee for spring/summer/fall

- **Renaming the Civic Auditorium**
 - Karl Wooldridge explained to the Board that during the last Alumni Tournament, there was a group that expressed interest in starting a scholarship fund in Sue Edmondson's name
 - The discussion progressed to the possibility of renaming the Civic Auditorium in honor of Sue
 - Wooldridge had discussed the idea with City Administrator, Daisy Huffman, and she advised that it would have to be a Park Board decision. Daisy also checked with the City Attorney to see if there would be any issues. There were none.

OLD BUSINESS

Rec Report, Sue

- Aquatic Center closed for the season on August 13th as all guards started High School practices for X-Country, Football, Volleyball, Band, Cheering, & Waldorf Classes
 - Games/Contests were on the 12th due to chance of rain and cooler temps on the 13th...over 200 people attended & it was a blast
 - Very satisfied with this year's lifeguard staff & already have 6 more interested more for next year
- Soccer/Volleyball sign ups are currently underway
 - Soccer will have the same coach as last year who did a fantastic job with the program. 3 age divisions: 4-5, 6-7, 8-10
 - Volleyball will have 2 new coaches who have played High School/College Volleyball & are very anxious to get started.

Park Report, Todd

- Winnebago River Revitalization Project
 - Daisy has finished setting up all required accounts and documents with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Department
 - Project will go out for bid this fall
 - Construction will possibly start this winter
- Pammel Park Ball Field resets
 - The foul poles were reset to align better with the bases
 - Both fields had new home plates installed (BB was this past spring & SB was last week)
- Pammel Park, Clark's Woods, & Thomas Bearse Park Roads
 - Now that we have received some rain, Todd is grading and maintaining the gravel roads & will get help from the Street Department on the more compacted parts of the roads
- Hynes Trail Tree Trimming
 - Did a lot of tree trimming to raise the canopy on parts of the trail and also allow the full width of trail in another area
- Purple Loosestrife
 - Todd received a call from the Hancock County Weed Commissioner about the invasive weed present on some City property along Crystal Lake Road
 - Todd and the Street Department mowed the area and then sprayed herbicide and will spray again in a few weeks
- Staff
 - Friday, August 18th will be the last day for all seasonal staff in the Parks' department

ESPN Fund

- \$45,150.57

Other Old Business

- None

ADJOURN

Motion by Reynolds. Second by Tomke. Motion carried.