



Forest City

PARKS & RECREATION

MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
Monday, July 10, 2023, 5.30PM
Rec Office

CALL TO ORDER

Called to order by Maurie Tomke. Board Members present: Maurie Tomke, Tom Clarey, & Linda Keifer. Missy Reynolds joined at 5:40. Also present were: Rec Superintendent, Sue Edmondson and Parks Superintendent, Todd Espeland, and City Administrator, Daisy Huffman (left meeting at 6:30).

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA

Maurie Tomke added BB/SB Discussion to New Business

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Motion made by Keifer. Second by Clarey. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF INVOICES

Motion made by Clarey. Second by Keifer. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Mowed Trails at Aquatic Center

- Todd and Sue explained that there had been some inappropriate activities happening on and around the mowed trails.
- Chief of Police, Tom Montgomery has suggested that there be some discussion about the need for the trails
- Discussion about trails providing accessibility and exercise/nature walks
- Options moving forward
 - Do not mow
 - Mow only the west trail leading to Park St.
 - Mow the trails wider to allow more visibility
 - Table the discussion until next meeting
- It was decided that Todd will widen the trails

Hynes Spur Endowment Fund

- The Community Foundation of NE Iowa has recommended that \$2,118.00 in the Endowment Fund be moved over to the QUASI Fund. This is a yearly move, they are looking for approval
- The Board would like to wait until Board Chair, Mike Johnson is set up as the new primary contact for CF of NE Iowa.

BB/SB Discussion

- Tomke discussed concerns of skill improvement, practice fluidity, and coach/participant engagement through the season
- Discussion on how to improve all programs moving forward
 - Create practice plans for coaches (The Board will invite Rec Director, Brett Geelan to the regular August meeting to discuss further).

Other New Business

- None

OLD BUSINESS

Rec Report, Sue

- Swim team season is complete
 - Concern regarding lack of interest from members wanting to compete in the conference meet
- BB/SB Programs are done on Tuesday, July 11
- Pool Parties
 - Middle school party is Thursday, July 13th
 - Elementary school party is Tuesday, July 18th
- Brickstreet Theater
 - Performances of “Wonderful World of Oz” will be July 28 and 29.

Park Report, Todd

- Winnebago River Revitalization Project
 - There will be a town hall informational meeting on July 17th at 5:30 in the Council Chambers at City Hall
 - DNR and US Fish/Wildlife reps will present and Q & A
- Pammel Park Swing Set Handout
 - Todd provided a handout with a quote and rendition of an idea to replace a swing set structure in Pammel Park on the east side of the pond
 - This is just for the Board to reference for future planning
- Planters
 - Todd tried to contact someone who was interested in helping with weeding/planting/clean-up but no response
 - Todd hired Kendra Haugen to do the work in Founder’s Park, south side of town Forest City welcome sign, and the Tweeten Pavilion flower/plant area
- Campground
 - Registrations are up by 80 compared to year to date last year and revenue is up 53% YTD over last year
- Cameras
 - Todd discussed the possible need of cameras
 - Cameras would need to be solar powered and cellular
 - Potentially placed in problem areas and able to be relocated as needed
- Mountain Lion
 - Todd informed the Board of a possible sighting close to the Korth Nature Trail
 - Three deer kills were found but no certainty of how killed
 - DNR officers set up trail cameras but no pictures of cougars have showed up
- Staff
 - Todd will start losing seasonal staff on July 14th
 - Hopefully will have 2 staff through most of August
 - The Board discussed succession planning for all Parks and Rec positions and would like to invite Daisy to the regular September meeting to discuss further

ESPN Fund

- No Report

Other Old Business

- Visioning (Projects that were discussed in February meeting were ranked)
 - 1) Campground RR/Shower House
 - 2) Lifeguard Recruitment
 - 3) Swimming Pool Trail
 - 4) Ball Fields
 - 5) Tennis/Pickleball Courts
 - 6) Bike Trails
 - 7) Trail Head for river activities

ADJOURN

Motion by Reynolds. Second by Keifer. Motion carried.