

**Minutes of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board meeting  
March 23, 2017**

Chair Linda Ahrendt called the meeting to order at 3:30pm in the City Hall Conference Room.

Members present were Bob Judson, John Simpson, Torry Zeller and Aaron Fabel. Also present were staff members Tom Farnsworth and Mindy Cheap. Dr. Craig Howard and Kelsey Smith were excused. Also attending was Commissioner Steve Harding. Guests were Becky Burke, Lance Fravel, Jim Protexter and Gaylon Gurber.

A motion to approve the February minutes was made by Zeller with a second by Judson; motion carried. There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

Ahrendt welcomed guests Becky Burke and Lance Fravel representing the Pierre Area Water Park Committee. Burke and Fravel gave an update to the board on their committee progress of raising funds towards a new water park for Pierre. Conceptual design was handed out showing pool amenities and their various costs. According to Burke and Fravel they had estimated cost of the waterpark as presented at \$12.8 million. Fravel said the intent of the committee was to use the conceptual design and cost estimate to visit with potential donors and perhaps a donor would adopt one of the special features. This would lower the amount of funding needed from the City. The committee needed to finalize the marketing brochure. Fravel stated it was the intent of the committee to visit with the new Mayor and City Administrator when they come on board and show them what they are working on. The water park committee would be interested in a City partnership towards building a new waterpark. Locations still remains the same, in Griffin Park at the site of the current outdoor pool plus surrounding space of the skate park area. The board held a dialogue with Burke and Fravel on design, lifeguards, concessions and cost, no recommendations were acted on. Farnsworth commented that a new water park would need to deal with the issue of minerals in the water and avoid staining from the iron/manganese in the Pierre water. Conceptual designs and costs of pools being built in Vermillion and Beresford were shared with the board. Beresford was using their pool bathhouse as an outdoor storm shelter and had got cost share funds from FEMA for such dual purpose use. After the Q/A session Ahrendt thanked Burke and Fravel for the presentation and update.

Staff reported on projects underway and those to be completed. The welcome sign to Mickelson Pond has been erected. The Boys and Girls Club bathroom project will open bids on April 10. The boiler replacement project at the Aquatic Center will begin April 7.

The Trail Maps Subcommittee is waiting for information from the State parks, Ryan Raynor and then should be able to print the revisions. The goal would be to print new maps in April for May distribution. The Pleasant Drive Park Subcommittee has not met with Todd Kelly yet.

Discussion on the plan to offer Cherry Berry product at the outdoor pool this summer was brought back. Cheap stated logistics will allow for sale at the pool. Motion by Judson, second by Simpson to approve selling Cherry Berry product at the outdoor pool this summer. Motion carried.

There was no update on the new lease of Hyde Stadium to the Expedition League. The City Commission approved a Memorandum of Understanding that allows the Park Director Farnsworth to work with Jim Protexter representing Post 8 baseball to negotiate a lease and bring back to the Commission for final approval. Farnsworth stated he hopes to have the final lease before June. It passed by the City

Commission, the League would begin play in May of 2018 provided they can secure an owner for the team.

### **New Business**

Ahrendt welcomed Jim Protexter and Gaylon Gurber to the meeting. Protexter and Gurber outlined how advertising signs work for Post 8 to raise funds for their program. They requested permission to install signs at Dan Kelley field and the Pony field at the sports complex to help raise additional dollars for the Post 8 baseball program. City ordinance does allow for this, it just has not been done. They will inform Todd Kelly as they know the weight of the sign and spacing can impact the fence. The board had no objection to this.

Discussion was held on short and long term needs at the Dan Kelley field, Protexter and Gurber presented a list of priorities. The top one was the restroom and concession stand project. Farnsworth stated he would like to approach the BID board again with a funding request and that Post 8 had offered to sponsor funds again. The board reviewed the project and costs, estimated at \$40,000 with City funding 60%. Motion by Judson, second by Simpson to approve the project and funding in the 2018 Park budget as presented. Motion carried. Farnsworth will look into attending the next BID board meeting to present the project again.

Fabel presented that the YMCA is preparing for the boiler work which begins soon.

Cheap is working on summer recreation programs and hiring summer staff. The board received copies of the summer activities guide, registration opens on line on April 24 at 6AM this year.

The La Framboise Mountain Bike race will be June 3rd.

Being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50pm. The next meeting of the board will be April 20.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Farnsworth, Director