

Park & Recreation Board Minutes
City Council Chambers, City Hall, 612 N. Main Street
February 9, 2023

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chris Retterath, President of Board at 6:18 PM.

Present: Chris Retterath, Andy Jerke, Clayton Deuter, Pat Skinner via phone then arrived at meeting at 6:27 PM.

Absent: Luke Norden, Austin Havlik, Jeremy Gunkel. Council Liaison: Marty Barington

Staff present: Kevin Nelson, Kevin DeVries, Angel DeWaard, Steve Roth, Jeremy Nielsen

2. Citizen's Input

3. DELEGATIONS

4. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

Motion Deuter, Second Jerke to approve Agenda. Motion carried

5. Minutes

Minutes of the November 3, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Motion Jerke, Second Deuter to approve the November 3, 2022 Minutes as read. Motion carried.

6. Approve Financial Reports

Motion Jerke, Second Deuter to approve the Bills as submitted. Motion carried.

7. Department Reports

Recreation Board Report

November 4th – February 9th

Kevin DeVries

Programs:

Coed Volleyball started up November 6th at the Armory and we ended up with 15 teams, which is more than we've had for a few years. Youth tennis lessons at the 4H building had solid numbers and will wrap up December 15th. Youth wrestling will be starting up on December 5th.

We ended up with 90 kids which is up from last year. Men's basketball will have its captains meeting on December 5th. We ended up with 32 teams which is the most we have ever had and will have to play in 1 gym on Tuesday night and 4 courts on Wednesday. That will start January 10th. Overall, we were happy with the numbers in most of our programs this year.

The 5th & 6th grade youth travel basketball league started up in January 5th as well. We ended up with 6 girls' teams but no boys' teams.

We have been meeting with the Daily Republic and have started working on the summer brochure for 2023. We just sent in our 1st proof last week. Todd and Jamie are already working on summer programs and staffing.

Recreation Center:

Update on the Indoor Aquatic Center. Crews started working on Monday, November 28th. The

February 1st deadline was not attainable and the swim club cancelled their meet. The comp pool is done and filled and the Rec Pool should be getting plastered the week of February 5th. Pool will have to sit for 30 days before anyone can be in it so we are thinking sometime mid-March. The issue we will have now is enough guards to be open all of our normal hours. We have lost quite a few and won't be able to train any new potential new guards until the end of March so there may be some adjustments in the schedule.

Mueller Lumber has been taking out the ceiling in the old pool and getting it ready to be sandblasted and repainted. We didn't think we needed to do that but engineers thought it would be a good idea as some of the beams have rust and might get worse over time. That is an added expense to the project.

It's starting to get really busy now after school with the weather getting colder. Lots of kids along with the afterschool program are sharing the 2 gyms. The elementary schools started a 5/6 grade youth basketball program after school starting in December and January and will be using the front gym 3 days a week. It did make things a little cramped on those days especially with the pool not open yet so not sure how that will go next year.

Sanford Fit kids' program is going well on Tuesdays & Thursdays after school and keeps a lot of those kids busy as well. Thomas and Adam are very busy after school with all of them as well as high school athletes. Also seeing more and more adults coming in for consults to get them healthier so I think we are serving the community very well in that aspect.

Memberships have been holding very strong and we continue to sell new memberships every day. Obviously, our day passes are taking a big hit with no open swim but it's great to see new and existing members using the facility and everything it has to offer. We finished the year up 150 check ins by members from 2021. Considering that the pool has been closed for 5 ½ months in 2022 that is pretty good.

We've had some issues with the hot tub and steam room lately. We did get the new hot tub plumbing and motors put in the middle of January. We are still waiting for the heater to come in for it, which should be in another month. It's lasted about 30 years so it's done its job. We hope the steam room generator is still having problems and we hope to get a new one of those after the first of the year as well.

Parks & Forestry Board Report February 2023

- Snow Removal
- Fixing snow removal equipment
- Maintenance and repairs on other equipment get them ready for this summer
- Took down the Xmas lights and tree
- Organizing and cleaning around the shops
- Helping out with Street Department with snow removal
- Ordering supplies for next summer
- Turning the heat and water on at Sportsman's Club, Elks are doing their Kids Ice Fishing tournament again on February 11th

PARK BOARD REPORT – SPORTS COMPLEX

Feb. 9, 2023

ICE ARENA:

- Feb. 17-19 we host the Pee wee B state tournament. One weekend of games left, 24-26. Teams will start turning to drop hockey. Last tournament is Men's league tournament, April 14-16.
- Figure skating will go until the end of April.
- Hours for hockey from beginning of the season through Dec 31: 477 hours, total invoice was: \$39,851. Hours for figure skating through Dec 31: 124.25, total invoice was: \$10,549.25.
- Open skate is doing well even with some cancelations due to weather. \$9,963 from beginning of season to Dec. 31. Only \$768 from bumper cars.
- Rentals \$2,642.50 total, \$400 from bumper cars.
- We picked up the Olympia we bought from Brookings. 2002, one year older than our newer one, with right around the same number of hours.
- Staff is cleaning, dry shaving/edging, working on equipment for summer, snow removal.

CADWELL:

- One bid came in for the press box at the stadium
- New scoreboard was ordered from donation for Drake. Estimated ship date is May 11.

February 2023

Director's Board Report

Rec Center Pools

- The competition pool passed its leak test on February 2, the same day on which the same 'testing' commenced for the recreation pool. If all is well, they'll drain it immediately after and then begin the plaster application process. Once this is completed, there'll still be a 30-day curing period for the plaster, so we'll be targeting a mid-March open date at that point, again, if all goes well with the (second) leak test. We'll have the report on this at the meeting next week.
- The pool duct sock, the ventilation tube which overhangs the perimeter of the pools) is not yet repaired. There is a push to get this completed asap.

New Press Box/Crow's Nest/Bleacher Shade

Last month I had provided an update, indicating that the council authorized some additional funding for the projected cost increase. However, at the bid opening earlier this week, it was disclosed that the lone bid came in nearly \$200K over what has been authorized/budgeted. Mitchell Baseball is now going back to the 'drawing board,' to see if they can come up with additional funding.

Playground Equipment for Patton Young Park

Amongst the approved capital improvement projects for 2023 is replacement of the playground

equipment at Patton Young. There are several 'state contract' vendors who have been approved, and going this route makes such acquisitions less complicated and (likely) slightly less expensive. There was a plan for said equipment approved by the board in 2021. However, since that time, an inclusive playground was constructed at Kiwanis Park, funded by the local Kiwanis Club. Thus, we'll seek input from an ad hoc committee to modify the plan for Patton Young.

Street Snow Piles

The process of clearing the streets of snow from curb to curb continues around Mitchell. Additional piles have been started in various areas of town, one such beginning in the southeast corner of the softball complex parking lot; the pile will expand north toward Cadwell, but it will stop before it gets to 13th Avenue, the street which divides the softball and baseball complexes. Also, because of the road salt present in this snow, the needed chip sealing work, which had already been discussed for a to-be-determined date for this parking lot, will be moved up to this summer, to attempt to minimize the salt damage.

Swim Club Rental Fees Discussion

Kevin DeVries, Chris Retterath, and I met with two representatives of the Dakota Riptide swim club earlier this week. We discussed daily practice rent (operational/maintenance fees), swim meets fees, and the final (one of five) \$200K bond payment due from Dakota Riptide. There will be a closed session at the end of the board meeting on Thursday to further discuss this with the park board.

District III Meeting

I took the opportunity to take part in the District III annual meeting last week at the fairgrounds. It was nice information to learn about the organization.

DWU Strategic Planning Breakfast

Last week also allowed for an opportunity to participate in strategic planning, along with a number of other Mitchell business leaders and council members.

Possible Budget Surplus Carry-over Opportunity

Some unfunded equipment/projects from our 2023 capital list have the chance to be funded for 2023, as positive department balances from the previous calendar year can be requested of council to carry forward for specified capital needs. This will be addressed in early spring, after further discussion with division leaders on updated priorities and related pricing.

Hockey Association Equipment Requests

Mitchell Hockey recently met and has since made a couple of requests related to the possible acquisition of items from a city-held capital equipment account into which a small portion of their player fees are collected. Those requested items included a) a water-bottle-filling station/drinking fountain for the arena, and b) a new sound system. It was determined that the drinking fountain would be eligible for such an expense, after approval of such request by the park board, but the sound system, an object (system) which would NOT be permanently affixed to the building, would not be eligible.

Pickleball Court Construction Planning Requests

Proponents of the development of the courts are pushing for updated numbers so that they may pursue grant funding.

Lawn Bowling Club Course Pursuit

Members of the (former?) Mitchell lawn bowling club have been contacting me, wondering how are pursuit is progressing for a new course location. We've since determined one possibility, and I've made a request of Terry Johnson to research related costs for such.

8. Approve Mitchell Hockey Association Request for Expenditure from Capital Improvement Fund - Water Bottle Filling Station/Drinking Fountain

Nielsen reviewed with the Board a request from the Mitchell Hockey Association for Expenditure from Capital Improvement Fund for a Water Bottle Filling Station/Drinking Fountain, noting beginning in 2020 when the 5% capital improvement fund was established, he has tracked and kept separate all fees collected and the Hockey Association has enough funds to cover the expense for the water bottle filling station/drinking fountain. Motion Jerke, Second Skinner to approve the request from the Mitchell Hockey Association for the expenditure from the capital improvement fund for the purchase of a water bottle filling station. Motion carried.

9. Discussion - Ad Hoc Board Committee Request: Parks Equipment Selection (revision) Patton Young Park

Director Nelson informed the Board originally the design was to replace the equipment with inclusive playground equipment, but with the new inclusive playground installed at Kiwanis Woodlot should the design be revised to standard equipment or a mixture of standard and inclusive. A brief discussion was held and the Board expressed their opinion that Director Nelson stay with the original design for an inclusive playground at Patton Young Park.

10. Discussion - Outdoor Aquatic Center Opening Date 2023

DeVries noted that, historically, the outdoor pool had opened at the end of May. Since 2016, when the new outdoor aquatic center opened, the weather has remained cool with the exception of 3 years when it was unseasonable warm. We would like to target June 1st as an opening date and list this in the summer brochure. Board expressed their support after a brief discussion.

11. Approve Scoreboard Donation from Dakota Riptide for Rec Center Competition Pool

The Board reviewed a request from Director Nelson to approve the Scoreboard Donation from Dakota Riptide to be placed on the south wall of the competition pool. Nelson noted Dakota Riptide would be covering the cost of the scoreboard as well as all repairs and maintenance of the scoreboard. Motion Jerke, Second Skinner to approve the Scoreboard Donation from Dakota Riptide as presented. Motion carried.

12. Approve City Expense to Cover Donated Scoreboard Installation Cost for Competition Pool

Director Nelson submitted a request to the Board for approval of the city covering the installation cost of the new donated scoreboard for the competition pool, noting the cost to be approximately \$600. Motion Jerke, Second Deuter to approve the city covering the installation cost of the new donated scoreboard for the competition pool. Motion carried.

13. Executive Session: Motion To Enter Into Executive Session In Accordance With SDCL 1-25-2 (5) Discussing Marketing Or Pricing Strategies

Motion Deuter, Second Jerke to Enter into Executive Session in Accordance with SDCL 1-25-2 (5) Discussing Marketing or Pricing Strategies. Motion approved.

Motion Skinner, Second Deuter to exit out of Executive Session at 7:31 pm. Motion approved.

14. Next Meeting Date

Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 6:00 PM

15. Adjournment

There being no further business the Board adjourned at 7:32 PM