Park & Recreation Board Minutes
City Council Chambers, City Hall, 612 N. Main Street
April 13, 2023

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chris Retterath, President of the Board, at 6:04 PM
Present: Chris Retterath, Andy Jerke, Clayton Deuter. Pat Skinner via phone - arrived at 6:14 PM
Absent: Luke Norden. 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 March 9, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Motion Jerke, Second Deuter to approve the March 9, 2023 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
March 10th – April 13th
Kevin DeVries

Programs:

Men's league basketball wrapped April 5th and youth wrestling finished at the end of March, which concluded our fall/winter programs.

We are currently still in the process of getting things ready for the summer. Todd and Jamie will be setting up staff meetings for this summer in May.

The summer brochure is set to come out April 6th to the schools. Registration will begin online April 17th.

We are still extremely short on lifeguards. As of right now, we are hoping to get enough to open the outdoor aquatic center. More than likely, we will not have enough to have both the indoor and outdoor open for guarded swim so we are concentrating on the outdoor for the summer. There may be time adjustments and certain play features off to work around the shortage. This could also have an effect on our swimming lessons.

Recreation Center:

The indoor aquatic center opened on April 3rd. We are all happy to finally have it back open and I know the members are as well. For now, we are going month by month for guarded open

swim times. We will try and be open on Saturday and Sundays for sure.

We expect to start seeing a lot of the members who took a break while the pool was down to start coming back, so it will be nice to see all those faces again.

The old pool remodel is moving along. They were able to open up the wall in the hallway that will be the opening. Starting April 10th, the HVAC crews will be working in the back to get things ready for when the unit comes in sometime in the fall. During this time, the back gym will be closed for 1 month. This will be an inconvenience but they will be working in there full time and we gave them a months' time to get it done.

We still have a lot of kids coming after school and anticipate that until the snow and weather get better and the outdoor spring sports start up.

Thomas and Adam are staying busy with members during the day and athletes after school. Things will really pick up more with that each week as kids get done with their winter activities and have even more time.

Parks & Forestry
Board Report
April 2023

- Snow Removal
- Started back up on doing tree removals from the boulevard and parks
- Hauling trees from our tree pile to the landfill
- Had Traffic Department make us some signs for the campground, one is no burning trash and the other signs are tents only in tent sites and where to find the tent sites
- Maintenance and repairs on equipment getting them ready for this summer
- Organizing and cleaning around the shops
- New mower got delivered
- Put up the tennis nets on the courts as they are looking to start practicing and having out door matches for Highschool tennis
- Removed 2 of the old umbrellas so the 2 new shade structures can be installed at the outdoor pool.
- Cutting and splitting firewood for the Campground
- Doing interviews and hiring seasonal staff

PARK BOARD REPORT – SPORTS COMPLEX
April 13, 2023

ICE ARENA:

- Men's league tournament this weekend. Around 26-29 hours on each rink.
- Hockey has 5 dates for a skills clinic, last day on April 20. Plan on taking ice out on the north rink week of the 24th.
- Weekend of 21-23 will be the last weekend for open skate/bumper cars.
- Figure skating goes until April 30th. South rink ice will come out first week in May.
- All vents are fixed on the rink roof. Estimated bill between $17,000-$22,000. Should be

covered by insurance. Still looking at options on how to stop the snow from hitting the vents.
- With help from the Sam Tronnes Memorial Foundation, we will be getting the new lobby outside windows tinted. This will take the glare away in the mornings when looking into the south rink from the lobby.

CADWELL:

- Everything has started up this week with the weather turning. Mitchell baseball and softball, DWU baseball and softball, travel teams.
- We have been: turning water on to bathrooms, putting bases out, garbage cans out, batting cage up, hitters eye up, prepping for games, cleaning garbage and sticks with the snow melting, painting foul lines.
- 7 double headers this week.
- We will be looking at turning the main line irrigation on to water infields.
- Putting up sun shades before the early bird tournament May 6th.

SOCCER:

- Soccer up and going also with the weather.
- MSA Started April 3, but was inside. They will be using 18 fields with games on Saturdays from 9-11am for 5 weeks.
- DWU will be doing some spring soccer.
- We have been putting nets on, laying out and painting fields, turning water on, putting out garbage cans.

April 2023
Director's Board Report

Rec Center Pools
They are open as of April 3!

Lifeguards/WSI Staffing Shortages
We've been meeting regularly since the down time for the Rec Center pools got 'extended' beyond what had been the hoped re-opening date of late December/early January. Training new lifeguards one or more times is each year is a regular happening for Jamie at the Rec Center, as students (which many lifeguards are) graduate or get busy with activities, and then move along with their lives. However, with the extended down time of the pool at the Rec Center, the majority of what had been or would be their lifeguards, moved on to other jobs, jobs to which they are already (too) committed to move back to this part-time gig for what may be considerably less pay, even if they do like the staff and work environment. We were able to offer some pay adjustments for guards and WSI staff alike, but it hasn't proven to be enough turn the corner on recruitment to date.
Implications for the summer season: We discussed the issue most recently (prior to the board packet being produced) on April 5, and a number of options are on the table at this time, as follows. 1) Jamie will continue to offer opportunities for lifeguard training as lifeguard applications are received; 2) Kevin and Jamie will work to refine the open swim times for the

outdoor pool, not just for public needs, but also as this coincides with lifeguard availability – this may mean reducing the open swim hours; and 3) Rec Center management staff may also need to consider closing sections of swimming lessons, as limited WSI staff will mean limited lesson time and section offerings.

Budget Surplus 2022 Carry-over
Council approved, this past Monday, each of our requests to fund a number of projects and equipment purchases, which initially hadn't been approved in the 2023 budget. We're grateful, as these will greatly aid in department operations and project endeavors.

Campground Hosts
We received limited applications for the positions this season, and staff interviewed several of them, extending offers to three over the past few weeks, but none have accepted. We'll continue to seek qualified staff.

Pickleball Grant Application
The application is posted on the department's web site for public comment until the grant submission deadline of April 28.

8. Discussion - MSHA Rental Rate For Summer Non-Ice Usage
Discussion on MSHA request for rental rate for summer non-ice usage.

9. 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 7:15 pm. Motion approved.

10. Next Meeting Date
Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 6:00 PM

11. Adjournment
There being no further business the Board adjourned at 7:17 PM