

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

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chris Retterath, President of the Board, at 6:02 PM

Present: Chris Retterath, Andy Jerke, Luke Norden, Dennis Thompson, Pat Skinner. Council Liaison: Susan Tjarks

Absent: Clayton Deuter, Adam Schulz

Staff present: Kevin Nelson, Steve Roth, Jeremy Nielsen

2. Citizen's Input

A. Eric Sabers, Mitchell Skating & Hockey Assn. - Sabers relayed the following concerns the hockey board has with the amended contract. Long-time hockey board members concerned about lease terms are turning against them and they have done a lot to mend the relationship with MFSC and we are not looking for favoritism but want to make certain that our needs are being met as well. Sabers noted that all final decisions run through Nielsen, Sports Complex Supervisor, and he does a great job making sure to be fair to both MSHA & MFSC. Sabers stated there is also concern about the condition of the roofs, as leaks are still an issue.

B. Kathy Axom, Women's Softball President - We would like to make improvements to the softball diamonds by putting in all new breakaway bases and all new pitching rubbers at a cost of approximately fifty-five hundred dollars for the project, with women's softball paying for half if approved by the city to pay for the other half of it. Nielsen noted this would be just 2nd & 3rd for a total of 16 breakaway bases and 8 pitching rubbers.

3. DELEGATIONS

4. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

Motion Norden, Second Thompson to approve Agenda. Motion carried.

5. Minutes

Minutes of the June 8, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Motion Jerke, Second Norden to approve the June 8, 2023 Minutes as read. Motion carried.

6. Approve Financial Reports

Motion Thompson, Second Norden to approve the Bills as submitted with Jerke abstaining. Motion carried.

7. Department Reports

Recreation Board Report

June 9 – July 13

Kevin DeVries

Programs:

Programs are well underway and some believe it or not are already done. Most 2nd session programs started this week. Baseball and softball will be wrapping up in the next week or two. We still have 2nd and 3rd session tennis lessons as well. We will be starting to take registration for Fall/Winter programs starting the week of July 10th so half way through the summer and we start on Fall.

The outdoor aquatic center is going well. We ended up getting about 35 guards towards the end of June, so we were able to go back to regular hours (1:00-8:00 p.m.) on June 11th. Jamie will be monitoring the attendance between 6:00-8:00 p.m. for the remainder of the season to see what numbers are if we decide next year to close at 7:00 p.m. or continue with the 8:00 p.m.

We also added Mon-Tues-Thur indoor open swim from 1:00-4:30 p.m. on June 19th.

Recreation Center:

The indoor aquatic center has stayed busy. As I stated above, we were able to add 3 days/week of guarded open swim times, which is great. Any other times we will continue with this policy. Anyone under the age of 18 MUST HAVE A PARENT with them to come in and swim.

The old pool remodel is still coming along nice. We got some great news about the HVAC. Originally it wasn't supposed to be in until November and all of the sudden it showed up mid-June. We are hoping to get the project wrapped up by the end of August if contractors can work their schedules around the earlier timeline. All the sheet rock is in and the room is painted. Waiting on the ceiling guys to come and after that put the flooring down.

Thomas and Adam continue to stay busy with athletes coming in at all times of the day so things are very busy around the Rec Center.

Lisa and Chris were able to get the information packets out to the preschoolers and Lisa will be having parent's meetings in the next few weeks.

We finished up hosting the cornbelt basketball team camps June 22nd. Lots of kids around and was pretty good for concessions.

The scoreboard for the swim team also came in so that will be going up sometime in July.

I will be out on vacation during the upcoming board meeting, so if you have any questions about what we have going on feel free to contact me before at kevin.devries@cityofmitchellsd.gov

Parks & Forestry Board Report July 2023

- Removed some trees from the Sportsman's boat area
- Hauled tree piles from around the lake

- Daily maintenance at the outdoor pool
- Irrigation maintenance
- Replaced door on restroom at Campground
- Spraying Canadian thistles and leafy spurge
- Spraying fence lines, along buildings, curb lines and cracks in sidewalks for weeds
- Heart and Sole Cancer walk was held in Hitchcock Park
- Tennis had their big tennis tournament in Hitchcock Park
- Got all the parks, areas around the lake and Campground ready for the 4th of July
- Put out 6 dumpsters around the lake for fireworks
- Cleaned up all the fireworks around the lake after the 4th
- Replace the women's toilet at Sandy Beach that got the bottom blown out by fireworks
- Working on next year's budgets
- Fogged the city twice for mosquitos and treating any standing water for mosquitos

PARK BOARD REPORT – SPORTS COMPLEX

JULY 13, 2023

CADWELL:

- Park and rec baseball and softball still going on until July 20th. Junior legion and teeners going until the end of July. Men's and Women's softball still going on. Men's finishes August 9th, women's finishes July 27th and co-ed starts the next Thursday for 6 weeks.
- State youth tournament this weekend. 67 teams, Friday 10am-10pm, Saturday 8am-10pm and Sunday 8am-4pm.
- State women's slow pitch July 29-30th.
- State Am. August 2-13th
- Staff has been: cutting lips on softball fields, game preps, cleaning, weed eating, adding rock at dog park, mowing, spraying, irrigation work. We started doing work on the stadium: shaping mound and plate, bullpen work, leveling and start working on edging.

SOCCER:

- Mowing, weed eating, spraying, adding mulch to trees, painting goals and painting corners of fields.
- We mover the extra soccer goals and a few small things out of the rodeo lease ground.
- Looking at making a couple blowouts for irrigation to help with start up and shut down of the irrigation system.
- Ordered the irrigation parts to close off irrigation to field 10.
- We do have our first tournament in a few years scheduled for next April.

July 2023

Director's Board Report

Campground Entrance

SDDOT, as a part of their nearing reconstruction of Highway 37 north of Mitchell, will be re-doing the entrance to the campground. The main entrance will ultimately be widened by about 40 percent. We're told that we'll lose the present landscaping around the sign, but we'll be credited/reimbursed for restoration of the area. We're told that we will not lose any trees near the entrance, and most importantly, no camping sites will be eliminated nor impacted.

Possible Emergency Shelter for Campground

A grant was submitted to FEMA last year for a potential combined emergency shelter and comfort station, which would house showers, restrooms, and laundry facilities, in addition to being an emergency shelter for those staying at the grounds. We're told it could be as late as December before we know for certain if we'll be awarded the funding.

Vandalism at Sandy Beach and Gainer Parks

We lost a toilet, due to a likely fireworks incident, at Sandy Beach on July 1. The commode was replaced on Monday, July 3.

Vandals chose to spray-paint graffiti on the picnic tables and playground at Gainer Park on July 5. Staff were working at cleaning/restoring it on July 6.

There was also some broken glass (perhaps a bottle?) reportedly on the new playground at Kiwanis Woodlot recently. Staff did clean-up of this shortly thereafter.

Post July 4 Clean-Up Around Lake

The Lion's Club was out and did their annual clean-up of fireworks debris at critical areas around the lake on July 5. As always, we are grateful for their efforts.

Social Media Critics of Parks Maintenance Efforts

Some may note maintenance 'needs' are being pointed out by one or more individuals on social media forums. We're well aware of maintenance said needs, and unfortunately, seasonal staffing levels the past two summers didn't allow for much beyond mowing. This year, the needed staffing is present, and as they are now comfortable in their mowing and trimming duties, other work can commence. Staff typically count on a slow-down in mowing needs to aid in this process, but rains, critical for farmers and parks turf, have continued.

Maintenance/Repairs/Replacement Lists

I'm presently working with each of the divisions to identify maintenance needs for the next year. The timing is critical, to work in conjunction with budgeting needs, as per below.

Budgeting for 2024

Division supervisors are working on developing their respective budgets for 2024 at this time. Completed documents are due to be submitted by July 24.

Pickleball Possible Funding

We should know by some point in August as to the fate of our Game, Fish, and Parks funding application to match funding toward developing pickleball courts in Hitchcock Park. If we get funded, funds will not be available until mid-summer 2024, and said work cannot begin until such time.

Bench donation for Bella's Butterfly Garden

A family contacted us last month to inquire as to the possibility of them donating a 4-foot memorial park bench to be placed in Bella's Butterfly Garden, as this was a neighborhood where their mother had resided, and she admired the park. Staff determined it would be a fit,

and upon receipt of the check, which exceeded the minimum of \$2,500 for such a bench, placed the order. It'll be fairly late in the season before the bench arrives and can be placed.

CDL Requirement Needs for Department Staff

Several of our new hires have yet to acquire their CDL Class B licensure, a requirement for their employment, in order to drive equipment such as snow plow truck. The city previously had the capability of sending staff through the CDL program at Mitchell Tech, and they still do in the summer months, when there is space available. However, the timing hasn't worked out, so HR put together a mostly self-study program, with a flexible (work day) schedule and late fall deadline, which I asked be provided, due to needs within their respective divisions.

8. Discussion on Softball/Baseball Tournament Fees When Workers Are Not Utilized

Nielsen informed the board that, currently, for baseball and softball, we charge \$36 per field per day and if they would like a worker, it's \$120 per worker per day. If workers are not utilized and there are 3 or more games, the field charge does not cover the costs associated with field usage and would like to see that field per day charge raised to \$100 - \$150 if workers are not utilized. The board held a brief discussion and requested Nielson bring back fee proposals in November when fees are set for the following year.

9. Next Meeting Date

Thursday, August 10, 2023 at 6:00 PM

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 6:59 PM