



Parks & Recreation Board Meeting
City Council Chambers, City Hall, 612 N. Main Street
January 11, 2024

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Andy Jerke, Vice President of the Board, at 6:02 PM

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

Absent: Chris Retterath, Clayton Deuter

Staff Present: Kevin Nelson, Kevin DeVries, Angel DeWaard, Steve Roth

2. Citizen's Input

3. DELEGATIONS

A. MAC Area Events - Seeking Approval for Placement of Stationary Outdoor Fitness Equipment

Emily Hohn and Courtney Denne representing MAC Area Events addressed the Board seeking approval for the concept of placing stationary outdoor fitness equipment along the loop around Cadwell. Hohn and Denne noted they are looking to initially place 8–10 pieces of equipment, which would include some handicap accessible. All would be basic equipment with minimal maintenance needs. There would be no cost to the city for the purchase of the equipment, but we would like the city to install the equipment. After a brief discussion, Motion Norden, Second Schulz to approve the concept for placement of stationary outdoor fitness equipment. Motion carried.

4. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

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

5. Minutes

Minutes of the December 14, 2023, meeting were reviewed. Motion Norden, Second Schulz to approve the December 14, 2023, Minutes as read. Motion carried.

6. Approve Financial Reports

Motion Norden, Second Schulz to approve the Bills. Motion carried.

7. Department Reports

Recreation Board Report

December 15 – January 11

Kevin DeVries

Programs:

Men's basketball started on January 10. That league will run in 1 gym on Tuesday's, 4 gyms on Wednesday's and 1 gym on Thursday's, now that we have 33 teams.

Youth Wrestling is under way. We ended up with 102 kids, which is the most in a decade.

Jamie also opened up a level 4 swim lesson class that will start January 15th.

Coed Volleyball is still going on Sunday evenings, and we will be meeting on January 10th with the Chamber, DWU and Special Olympics about the State Basketball tournament that will be held here in Mitchell in March.

We met with the Daily Republic and are off and running on the summer brochure!

Recreation Center:

We ended the year very well considering all we went through with the pool and remodel of the old pool. Things are going very well with all of that and the old room is working out great for preschool and kids club. We will be ordering the climbing wall for that room this month so that will add even more to that room for the kids.

The contractors have started painting the hallways and lobbies in the building and should be done within the week with that. After they are done, the flooring will be next starting on the 15th of January if all goes well. Once the flooring is in, we will be getting new cubbies in the front lobby for the kids after school.

Memberships are going well to start off the year. We did raise rates, as you know, about 5% along with daily fees, so that will take some getting used to for some. We are going to see an increase in our senior membership as Blue Cross/Blue Shield has silver sneakers as part of its benefits, so it will be great to see even more of them staying active.

We are still having issues with our steam room. Muth electric and the manufacturer have been working on figuring out a solution for why the heating elements keep burning out.

We will be hosting gymnastics meet in our front gym February 16-18 with Core Athletics. They were in need of a space for this year and they think our gym will work so hope that all goes well.

**Parks & Forestry
Board Report
January 2024**

- Started removal of dead boulevard and park trees
- Trimming trees above sidewalks and a few of the trees in some parks
- Cutting and splitting firewood for the Campground
- Hauled tree piles from around the lake to the landfill
- Grind stumps from trees around the lake that were removed
- Took down the Xmas tree and decorations after the 1st of the year
- Getting snow removal equipment ready for this winter
- Snow removal
- Starting to do maintenance and repairs on equipment for next summer

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Director's Board Report

2024 Tree Removal Rates

Rate information was recently distributed to each park board member, and it is included in this packet as well. The sheet shows current rates, which are based upon FEMA equipment rental/reimbursement rates, in addition to what increases of either 25% or 50% would look like. This 'comparison' was compiled to review, as FEMA rates have increased by 48% since the last time our department rates for removal of boulevard trees were adjusted. There will be discussion on such at the meeting with the possibility of a determination to make any such approval of rate adjustments at the next monthly board meeting.

Clean-Up Work Around Lake Mitchell

Brush clean-up subsided prior to the holidays, with the intent of not continuing again until the spring. John McLeod, the mayor, and I toured this morning the areas which were addressed over past 'work year.' There is still some light clean-up to be addressed at two of the areas, and trees will be planted at the amphitheater location on Arbor Day in April. Another tree is to be added east of the sand volleyball court at the Day Camp, as well.

As a reminder, buckthorn, honeysuckle, dead branches/trees, cedars which are crowding out other trees, and low-hanging branches have been the main focus.

Shelter Improvements

There are some planned, to-be volunteer-funded improvements (materials and labor) to the outside of the Day Camp and Sportsman's Club over the next two summers. These improvements will include, at minimum, new siding and related trim.

Cadwell Stadium Press Box and Canopy

Construction on the actual press box itself continues.

Cadwell Loop Stationary (fixed-in-place) Fitness Equipment

We had a couple of meetings in late November/early December, inclusive of department staff and some local professionals who are interested in pursuing the addition of fitness equipment at several locations around the Cadwell loop. One or both of these individuals had hoped to be present at the December board meeting but will now present the concept to the park board at our regular meeting on January 11.

Arena Meeting with Mitchell Marlins' Board

As was recently discussed with the board, arena staff have experienced frustrations in a number of areas regarding some specifics at the arena as they relate to hockey. Two reps from the parks board, four reps from hockey, plus Jeremy and I met at the arena the evening of December 21 to discuss. Reigning in misbehaviors of (mostly) participants, arena staff focusing on cleaning, and increased two-way communication were the prevailing concerns. Possible future projects were also discussed.

8. Discussion: Tree Removal Rate Options 2024

Director Nelson reviewed with the Board the tree removal rate options for 2024, noting these rates have not been adjusted since they were approved by the Board in 2019. A brief discussion was held.

9. Executive Session: Motion to Enter Into Executive Session In Accordance with SDCL 1-25-2 (1) Personnel (4) Preparing for contract negotiations

Motion Skinner, Second Norden to enter into Executive Session at 6:35 PM as permitted by SDCL 1- 25-2 (1) Personnel (4) Preparing for contract negotiations. Motion carried.

Vice President Jerke declared the Board out of Executive Session at 7:00 PM

10. Next Meeting Date

Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 6:00 PM

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 7:10 PM