

July 8, 2021 Playground and Recreation Board minutes regular meeting

Recreation Board Members Present: Phil McNally, John Levy, Alex Spencer, Ryan Cantlin, Steve Brenbarger, Maribeth Manigold, Robert (Bud) Niles, (Mark Astle, Director of Ottawa Recreation).

Others attending the meeting: Steve Kuhn, Hanna Wisler
Recreation Board Members Absent: Randy Bretag, Randy Orr
Guests: None

1. Phil moved to approve June Recreation minutes. Steve second. Motion passed.
2. Bud moved to accept the June Recreation Financial Report. Steve second. Motion passed.
3. Phil moved to accept Pool June financial reports. Steve second. Motion passed.
4. Guests: David Trenor from Bridges discussed the Bridges' Grant request for 2021-22.
5. Pool Manager's report – Hannah Wisler reported on the following:
 - a. The last day for the pool to be open will be August 7.
 - b. Since the pool season is half over, Hannah is working on awarding previously discussed hiring bonus for working the first half of the pool season.
 - c. Attendance has been averaging 100 per day with a high of 300 on 4th of July weekend.
 - d. The pool is averaging two rentals per week.
 - e. There are still not an optimal number of lifeguards, but the crew is working hard and covering the shifts.
 - f. Steve Kuhn noted that pool study regarding the pool's future is in process.
6. Commissioner's Report: Steve Kuhn presented the Commissioner's report.
 - a. Updated the board on progress at Thornton Park and East Side Park.
 - b. Informed the board that the river walk sidewalk has been undermined and is being demolished for safety.
 - c. Expressed Commissioner Rodriguez' appreciation of the board's work on summer programs and the pool.
7. President's Report:
 - a. John noted that maintenance of ball diamonds around town seemed to be less thorough than in the past.
 - b. John announced that he was not volunteering to be reappointed to the board and this meeting was his last as a board member and his last as president.
8. Director's Report
 - i. Mark reported on the Recreation summer Parks program.
 - ii. Mark reported on the Recreation Summer Camps program
 - iii. Mark reported on the continuation of adult softball
 - iv. Mark reported that Tim Trumbo resigned as director of adult basketball.
9. Old Business – None

10. Long Range Planning and Board Goals

- a. Construction in Progress – See Commissioner’s report.
- b. Park Inspections – The board was reminded to give inspection forms to Randy B. or to Steve Kuhn.
- c. Long Range Plans (Kevin and Maribeth)
 - i. Alex noted that Peck Park will be probably be the next park targeted for improvements.
 - ii. Steve Kuhn suggested that the LRP committee begin planning for 2022 budget requests.
- d. Bike Paths – None

11. Committee Reports

- a. By-laws (Maribeth) – None
- b. Financial (Ryan, Kevin) – None
- c. Parks (Randy B., Robert, Steve, John)
 - i. Phil suggested that the board move forward with repainting the Fox River basketball court. He has asked Tammi for an estimate. The discussion of Fox River basketball court was tabled until August.
 - ii. Phil presented possible acquisitions that the city would pursue through grants.
 - iii. Steve Kuhn shared a design for a plaque for PIP Park in the Lincoln Douglas Complex. He reminded the board that the dedication ceremony will be held on July 17.
- d. Programs – (Phil, Randy O., and Maribeth) –
 - i. Phil reported that use of Ollum Field is surprisingly high.
 - ii. Phil reported that the Ollum Field lights have been malfunctioning and will be worked on.
 - iii. Phil reported that he is working on finding a replacement mower for Rob Thompson.
 - iv. Phil noted that there has been increase in travel leagues asking about using Masinelli and Whitney.
 - v. Steve Kuhn suggested that board begin to develop a more formal rental and field use philosophy and form.
- e. Pool (John, Maribeth, Steve, Randy B.) – John shared excerpts from Steve Kuhn’s 2011 letter to the city of Ottawa about the pool. The 2011 letter suggested the pool had approximately five years of use before it would need major renovations.

12. New Business

- a. Phil motioned to pay the Bridges Grant Request of \$4000. Robert second. Motion passed.
- b. Robert motioned to award Mark Astle, director of Ottawa Recreation, a \$1000 bonus for working through the pandemic over the past two summers. Steve B. second. Motion passed.
- c. As per bylaws, Robert Niles assumed the president’s position effective immediately. The board nominated Alex Spencer as vice-president. Alex accepted. The board voted unanimously to elect Alex as vice president.

13. Meeting adjourned.