

August 12, 2021 Playground and Recreation Board minutes regular meeting

Recreation Board Members Present: Robert (Bud) Niles, Phil McNally, Alex Spencer, Steve Brenbarger, Maribeth Manigold, Randy Bretag, Randy Orr (Mark Astle, Director of Ottawa Recreation).

Others attending the meeting: Hanna Wisler

Recreation Board Members Absent: Ryan Cantlin

Guests: Chris Stone

1. Maribeth moved to approve July Recreation minutes. Phil second. Motion passed.
2. Phil moved to accept the July Recreation and Pool Financial Reports. Alex second. Motion passed.
3. Guests: Chris Stone addressed the board, suggesting that Phillips Park become a training course for disc golf beginners. He suggested three holes, one each to practice each of the three main throwing skills. He suggested such a course could be used to hold clinics for beginners interested in the sport. He also suggested that the board look into redesigning Fox River disc golf holes in order to avoid conflict with the water feature and nearby pavilion. He also reported that he has helped create a disc golf league to play on Wednesday's at Fox River Park.
4. Pool Manager's report – Hannah Wisler reported on the following:
 - a. The last day for the pool to be open was August 7.
 - b. The vast majority of the guards earned the summer employment bonus.
 - c. The National Night Out, held in conjunction with the police department went smoothly but was not as well attended as in the past.
5. Commissioner's Report: None
6. President's Report: None
7. Director's Report
 - i. Mark reported on the end of the Recreation summer Parks program. He complimented the park supervisors for efforts all summer. Mark also reported on the annual Ottawa Recreation Tennis tournament, noting that 116 participants registered. He complimented the Rec Tennis Crew for their hard work and organization in the tournament and throughout the summer.
 - ii. Mark reported on the Recreation Summer Camps programs, reporting that overall, attendance was about half of the usual, but only about half of the usual number of camps were held. Mark will present final camp attendance and costs at the September meeting.
 - iii. Mark reported on the end of adult softball, noting that the tournament ran smoothly. He complimented Dave Marvin for taking over and running a smooth league and tournament.
 - iv. Mark reported that he had approached multiple people regarding running the adult basketball league, but all had turned him down. In addition,

Mark suggested that the mandate of masks in schools for sports taking place inside would make it harder to have a league.

8. Old Business – None

9. Long Range Planning and Board Goals

- a. Construction in Progress – No report
- b. Park Inspections – None
- c. Long Range Plans (Alex, Maribeth)
 - i. Alex reported that he will be inspecting outdoor basketball courts to suggest the next courts to be painted.
 - ii. Alex reported that he had review long-range plans from 2010 and 2016. Based on his review, he made the following suggestions:
 1. The board might consider the skate park for upgrade.
 2. The board should think about the following in its long-range planning: Land Acquisition, Programs, Leagues/Partnerships, Pool, Broad Vision goals.
- d. Bike Paths – Phil reported that Starved Rock Cycling would like bike lanes painted with longer lasting paint.

10. Committee Reports

- a. By-laws (Maribeth) – None
- b. Financial (Ryan, Kevin) – None
- c. Parks (Randy B., Robert, Steve) – None
- d. Programs – (Phil, Randy O., and Maribeth) –
 - i. Phil reported that Halm Brothers has quoted him \$708 to replace OGFA lights. Maribeth moved to accept the bid. Steve second. Motion passed.
 - ii. Phil reported that he received a quote for \$4950 from Halm Brothers to replace the Ollum Field lights and one OGFA field light. The quote include lamps, ballasts, labor, and lift. Randy O. moved to accept the bid. Steve second. Motion passed.
 - iii. Phil reported that he is soliciting bids for a replacement mower for Rob Thompson.
- e. Pool (Maribeth, Steve, Randy B.) – None

11. New Business

- a. The board discussed Chris Stone’s disc golf presentation. The board agreed that Phillips Park needed a lot of work to be useful to the public.
- b. Maribeth pointed out that the Rec Board needed approval from Commissioner Rodriguez and City Council to make major changes like those suggested by Mr. Stone.
- c. Steve pointed out the benefits of installing the course at Thornton: ease of access, parking, little landscaping required, effective use of land features, no interference with planned upgrades.
- d. The board agreed to have Maribeth give Mr. Stone’s materials to Commissioner Rodriguez via Kim Czyz so that the Commissioner could review the proposal and the board’s suggestion to create a three-hole beginner course at Thornton.

12. Meeting adjourned.