

September 9, 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, Ryan Cantlin (Mark Astle, Director of Ottawa Recreation).

Others attending the meeting: Hanna Wisler, Steve Kuhn, Tami Huftel

Recreation Board Members Absent: Randy Orr

Guests: Chris Stone

1. Phil moved to approve August Recreation minutes. Maribeth second. Motion passed.
2. Brent moved to accept the August Recreation and Pool Financial Reports. Steve B. second. Motion passed.
3. Guests: Chris Stone reported on his idea of using Thornton as a small 3-hole disc golf course. He suggested that it was possible to raise funds for all the disc courses through selling merchandise and promoting tournaments.
4. Pool Manager's report – Hannah Wisler reported on the following:
 - a. The pool will need a new lifeguard chair and new umbrella covers. The board asked her to hold off ordering new equipment until the city decided on pool funding for 2022.
 - b. The summer employment bonus had been paid to guards who earned.
5. Commissioner's Report: Steve Kuhn reported for Commissioner Rodriguez.
 - a. Updated the board on Thornton Park progress
 - b. Reported that East Side Park play equipment and zip lines were completely installed.
 - c. He asked the board to begin planning its budget for 2022-23.
6. President's Report: President Niles acknowledged Mark's retirement notice and thanked Mark for his time as director.
7. Director's Report
 - i. Mark reviewed the summer recreation attendance and costs. He noted increase costs due to increased wages and increased t-shirt costs.
 - ii. Mark reported on beginning of fall adult softball, noting that there were five teams. The board asked Mark to ask Dave Marvin, Softball Director, to attend the October meeting to discuss his ideas regarding next summer's adult softball.
 - iii. Mark reported that he had given job descriptions to several interested parties but had yet to hear back.
8. Old Business – None
9. Long Range Planning and Board Goals
 - a. Construction in Progress – Steve Kuhn noted that the city hopes to have Thornton renovations complete before winter.
 - b. Park Inspections – None

- c. Long Range Plans (Alex, Maribeth)
 - i. Alex reviewed the report he sent to the board.
 - 1. He emphasized he wants a better understanding of the costs of upkeep by leagues.
 - 2. He expressed a desire to help with long-range planning.
 - 3. He expressed a desire to develop a better onboarding packet for new members.
- d. Bike Paths –None

10. Committee Reports

- a. By-laws (Maribeth) – None
- b. Financial (Ryan, Kevin) – None
- c. Parks (Randy B., Robert, Steve)
 - i. Randy reported on his meeting with Dana Vici, disc golf course designer. He presented two possible designs for Fox River and one possible design for Thornton. The board asked Randy to approach Dana to create rough draft designs for both of the proposed Fox River courses. The board said it would be willing to pay for the drafts.
 - ii. Steve Kuhn suggested that the Parks committee meet with Commissioner Rodriguez about both courses at both parks before proceeding any further.
- d. Programs – (Phil, Randy O., and Maribeth)
 - i. Phil presented four grass cutting bids.
 - ii. Phil motioned to accept the bid from O’Fallon Mowing for \$6,650. Randy second. Motion passed.
- e. Pool (Maribeth, Steve, Randy B.) – Maribeth asked that Mark contact Hannah and ask for a more complete final season report.

11. New Business

- a. The board created a search committee to begin looking for Mark’s replacement. Maribeth, Brent, Alex were named to the committee.
- b. Robert moved to honor Mark’s request to serve as director through the February Playground and Recreation meeting. Brent second. Motion passed.

12. Meeting adjourned.