

APRIL 13, 2023 Playground and Recreation Board minutes regular meeting

Recreation Board Members Present: Alex Spencer, Phil McNally, Ryan Cantlin, Maribeth Manigold, Steve Brenbarger, Brent Roalson, Kari Hilton, Josh Moore, Randy Bretag, (Dave Marvin, Director of Ottawa Recreation).

Others City Officials attending the meeting: Steve Kuhn. Tammi Koppen

Recreation Board Members Absent:

Guests: David Trenor – Bridges Senior Center

Mr. Trenor discussed his organization and how they help the area community's seniors offering free programs. Examples: Help to set up Medicaid, Exercise programs, He indicated he wanted to implement some programs in Ottawa and was asking if the Recreation board could contribute to his organization financially.

The board was interested in helping and asked Mr. Trenor to come back to another meeting with a breakdown of what the donation would be used for, with costs for us to look at.

1. Phil moved to approve March Recreation minutes. Maribeth second. Motion passed.
2. Josh moved to accept the March Recreation Financial Reports. Steve second. Motion passed.
3. Commissioner's Report: Steve Kuhn discussed
 - A. Addition of 375,000 dollars to the budget to match our loan to address Peck and Walsh Park projects
 - B. City reviewed Peck Park to get some preliminary ideas for improvements which included
 - i. Pickle ball / Tennis courts
 - ii. Playground Equipment
 - iii. Splash pad.
4. President's Report – Alex discussed that he, Maribeth and Tammi attending a meeting with the local skate park group, the following items were discussed
 - a. Potential Locations
 - i. Group was interested in having it centrally located, possibly downtown.
 - ii. Lincoln Douglas park was also a location of interest
 - b. Fundraising- the group discussed various fundraising ideas.
 - i. Discussed Playground Equipment and other amenities that were emailed /presented to us by Tammi.
5. Director's Report –
 - a. Adult Basketball
 - i. League Champs – Team Mike
 - ii. Tournament champs – The Outage
 - b. Adult Softball
 - i. Registration open April 3rd
 - ii. Offering Men's, Women's, Coed, and Open play League.
 - iii. Open play (allows people with no team to participate, pickup games)

- c. Illegal Bat Solution - In order to insure safety to all the participants in our recreational softball league, and comply with national and professional softball association safety standards, the final solution was to purchase a compression bat tester.
 - i. Bat safety logos are hidden / removed by players Umpires are unable to see the markings. Even some legal bats markings are worn off.
 - ii. Dave discussed the need for a means to determine if bats were considered safe by national association softball standards, because of problems us identifying Illegal bats
 - iii. Plus this will allow participants to still use their own older bats that test legally instead of us (City Rec) providing bats to use in a league.
 - 1. *One of the other suggested solutions was to only allowing players to use City Rec purchased bats.)*
 - iv. Dave asked for a motion for the purchase of one Compression Tester costing no more than \$1400.
 - 1. Phil made the motion to purchase a Bat Compression Tester for Adult Softball leagues at a cost of \$1400, Randy seconded the motion.
 - A. Motion passed 8-0
 - d. Employment – We hired an Adult Softball Supervisor and Maintenance worker
 - i. Brian Battistelli will supervise any and all adult softball leagues and will also replace Ken Hick as field maintenance for the two Lincoln Douglass Diamonds moving forward.
 - ii. He will start once Adult softball league begins. Which would be May 22nd if we have enough participating teams
 - e. Summer Employment – Only a couple park supervisors opening left
 - i. Have 2 interviews next week
 - ii. Coaches and camp leaders slowing getting us their information.
 - iii. Our Wednesday Park Programs Special Event are set.
 - f. New Rec Budget Code format
 - i. Dave distributed an example of new categories added to existing budget items. Dave will track funds using both old and new to compare at the end of the fiscal year.
 - ii. The new budget items
 - 1. Made terminology of the different categories easier to recognize.
 - 2. Also in regards to the tracking of spent recreation and park funds, its show us a clear definition toward the placement of those fund being distributed.
 - g. Pool agreement with YMCA
 - i. Board got a first look at the operation agreement for the new pool between the City and the YMCA.
 - ii. Still determining who “City or Rec” hires the entrance cashiers for the daily pool participants.
6. Old Business:
- a. Outstanding committed money – NONE
 - i. Add Thornton Park Willa Wah (weather van Sculpture) to the list
 - 1. Creating concrete pad and mounting sculpture, plus the addition of a plaque.
 - ii. Lincoln Douglass North Diamond (Roy Sanders Field) – Fence / Gate Repair
 - 1. Brent made a motion to pay All Type Fence \$3180.50 for Fence and Gate repairs at Roy Sanders Field. Steve seconded the motion.

Motion passes 8-0

7. Long Range Planning and Board Goals

- a. Construction in Progress – NONE

8. Committee Reports

- a. By-laws (Maribeth) – None
- b. Financial (Ryan) – None
- c. Parks (Randy B., Steve B.) – Randy reported on number of participants using the disc golf course at Fox River park, Data was collected from a QR code at the park.
 - i. 887 rounds played by 113 players 715 hours
 - ii. 72 players visited from 30 miles away
 - iii. 21 visited from 150 miles away
 - iv. 16 from 300 miles away
- d. Programs – (Phil and Maribeth) – None
- e. Leagues –
 - i. We were inform by Steve Kuhn that all leagues would be responsible to cut grass inside the fences of the playing fields if they want them cut more than once a week
 - ii. Phil Submitted bills on behalf of O.B.B of a total 2023 dollars for Batting cage repairs.
 - iii. Kari Submitted bills on behalf of O.G.F.A of a total of 1401.50 for turf and chalk.
 - 1. Randy made a motion to pay the leagues bill for all field prep and repair maintenance submitted by OBB (\$2023.00) and OGFA (1401.50) Brent Seconded the motion
A. VOTE: YES: 6 NO: 0 ABSTAINED: Kari 1 Phil 1
motion passed.
 - 2. Brent made a motion to pay OBB \$600.00 for Installed Helmet Rack at Mazzinelli Field. Josh seconded the motion
VOTE: YES: 7 NO: 0 ABSTAINED: Phil 1 motion passed.
- f. Pool (Maribeth, Steve, Randy B.) None

9. New Business –

- a. Lions Club donated \$5000 for Walsh Park playground Equipment.
 - i. Recreation board members wants to publicly thank the Lions Club for such a generous donation.
 - 1. The board will look into adding a recognition plaque attached to whatever equipment is purchase and placed at Walsh Park.
- b. Lincoln Douglass South Diamond / Marquette Softball Field prep Maintenance-
 - i. Brent made a motion to reimburse the OFGA organization \$2400.00 for money spent on OGFA maintenance worker Steve Brenbarger, for field maintenance work he performed at June Gross field for the Marquette Softball Program. Kari seconded the motion.
 - 1. VOTE: YES: 6 NO :1 Josh ABSTAINED: 1 Steve.
Motion passed.

10. Meeting adjourned.

- a. Josh made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Maribeth Seconded. Motion passed.