

April 11th, 2024, Playground and Recreation Board minutes regular meeting

Recreation Board Members Present: Brent Roalson, Phil McNally, Randy Bretag, Ryan Cantlin, Steve Brenbarger, Melissa Hulse, Maribeth Manigold, Sarah Nanouski, Jason Rix, Amanda Lynch, Interm Director of Ottawa Recreation

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

Recreation Board Members Absent: none

Guests: none

1. Phil McNally had a change to March's minutes in that it was incorrectly stated that IDOT put up a sign directing the public to Masinelli Fields-minutes should state that the OHS workshop created and erected the sign and that it is located near IDOT. Changes were noted and made. Phil then moved to approve the March minutes. Steve second. All in favor and Motion passed.
2. It was stated that all vouchers have been received at this point. Steve moved to accept the March Recreation Financial Reports. Phil seconds. All in favor and the Motion passed.
3. Tammie advised the City is moving forward with bids from Visseri and IDNR at Allen Park. Peck Park update is that the check was received from South Ottawa Township and will cover most if not all of the cost of the shelter.
4. Marla was not present.
5. (a) Brent discussed the consolidation of North and Southside Little Leagues stating the resistance of the Northside and the Southside being onboard. Various topics were brought up, (1) travel (Chad Lucas with the Wolfpack has made mention that parents are asking for a 7/8 year old league because they are tired of the feuding between the North and South sides however it was mentioned that there is a need for rec options as some cannot afford or do not want to travel (2) All Stars Jason Rix spoke about interleague play and how All Stars would only benefit from the combining of leagues and how it is believed that the number of teams would not be affected as formerly suggested by the Northside (3) meeting to be called between the North and South Side Little Leagues and City Rec members Jason Rix, Brent Roalson and Melissa Hulse to discuss field maintenance requests and Charter issues and it is decided and agreed amongst the board that rec is needed since travel is not an option for some so while the Rec Board will listen to the Charter Issues it may be needed to force the absorption/combination of the leagues. Repair costs of the fields and how vouchers will be combined will be decided.

(b) City Rec Basketball-it was discussed how the program has changed from when it was first agreed upon that the director was to be paid \$2,600 for 8 weeks of running the program. At the time this amount was agreed upon he was scheduling games, refs, score keeping and turning in scores to the local paper. Since the program numbers have decreased and the program has taken the direction of being run as an “open gym” atmosphere on Friday nights the director’s responsibilities have decreased and it needs to be looked at as to whether or not the program can be revamped to run more like softball with a quick score setup for teams to register and possibly pay a \$5 per player fee for open gym nights? The league and the director’s salary issues will be tabled until next month with a discussion of what the director’s fees should be, salary?, \$100 per open gym night? The board will also look into gym availability for the program.

6. (a) See above

(b) Spring Dance is scheduled for 4/14. Jane needs to turn in the bill and she will get paid.

7. (a) Outstanding committed money – Quotes Ollum-the score booth shed needs paired, both the floor and the roof. A \$1,000.00 was donated by Wallace Grade School to Ollum Field for maintenance. A Motion was made by Phil McNally to approve and move forward with the City Rec splitting maintenance costs for quotes received for Ollum field and shed repairs. Randy 2nd. All in favor and the motion passes.

(b)Peck Park and use of City Loan Funds-Pearson, Eichlekrout and Roalson will discuss and come to a budget agreement to be presented

(c)all vouchers have been turned in by all leagues Randy makes a motion to approve payment of all vouchers. Melissa seconds. All approve and motion passes.

Phil presents to the board a bill from Heiss welding for grading repair done at Ollum for \$654. Steve made a motion to approve and pay. Jason 2nd. All approve and the motion passes.

Phil submits a maintenance bill from Reese Construction for work done at Ollum in the amount of \$1,150. Jason makes a motion to approve and pay. Mellisa seconds. All in favor and it passes.

(d) Update on Fox River BB Courts they will be painted this Spring

8. (b) Pictures of equipment damage at Walsh Park will be sent to Steve for review

9. Committee Reports

(a) Nothing to report

(b) Nothing to report

(c) Nothing to report

(d) Discussion of adding rec programs geared towards our Senior residents. Discussion of rebuilding a relationship between Bridges and the Rec Board. Discussion of possible joint program development between the City Rec Board and Reddick Library and the United Way. Safety Town offered as an evening program option will also be looked at and it will be determined if this is something that can be done within the staffing and

budgeting allowed. All issues to be looked into further and discussed amongst the committee.

- (e) Northside has an outfield light out. A quote was obtained from B&G electric and the cost for 8 LED lights would be \$13,000 (this would be to replace 4 poles with 2 lights each). A \$6,500 cost split would need to be agreed upon with Little League and this issue will be tabled until discussed with Little League at the meeting the Rec Board will call with them.
- (f) Brochures are being reviewed for changes. It was discussed that City Rec will provide an "opt out" option for families this year versus a "photo release" form for everyone to sign when registering for city rec. It will be looked into if the Spring Dance needs to be added to the social media page. The committee looked at what "policies" are in place versus using "guidelines" for who and what can and should be allowed to be posted on social media. The committee is going with "guidelines" and making the public aware of such things as their ability to "opt out" of being photographed or posted about and who/what/where their child could potentially be posted and/or photographed via language being printed in the brochure and language available on the website. The program directors will be instructed if someone in their camp chose to opt out.

10. (a) Addressed above

(b) IVCC had a good experience with their field usage and hopes the event is even bigger and to use more fields next year.

11. City Rec Board went into closed session to discuss filling the vacancy For Director of Ottawa Recreation. (Notes available upon request.)

*****Board came out of closed session and meeting resumed*****

A motion is made to offer Amanda Lynch the position of Interim Director of Ottawa Recreation for the 2024 Season at the current salary of the previous Director, being \$17,000.00, and that she be paid retroactive with said salary to have started on April 1, 2024. Melissa 1st. Maribeth 2nd. All in favor and the motion passes.

A motion is made for Amanda Lynch to be given the authority to appoint an assistant to her position as Interim Director of Ottawa Recreation and to approve the assistant's salary to be set at \$4,600.00. Maribeth 1st. Melissa 2nd. All approve and the motion passes.

12. Steve makes a motion to Adjourn. Ryan 2nds. All in favor and the meeting is adjourned.