

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

April 11, 2023

The regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was held at the Recreation & Aquatic Center and called to order at 7:00am on Tuesday, April 11, 2023. Board Members Rob Oman, Dana Suiters, Carolyn Marlowe, Chairman David Schrader, new member Launi Schmutz-Harden and staff liaison Terri Moore were in attendance. Board member Bertell Butler was absent. Stephen Blanchard attended as a potential new member.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- The February 14, 2023 meeting Minutes were unanimously approved. (There was no quorum in March, 2023.)

OLD BUSINESS:

- Introductions – Everyone in attendance introduced themselves. The Parks Superintendent, Recreation Supervisor III, and Special Events Coordinator were not present at the meeting.
- Board Recruitment – Launi was approved at the last Council Meeting and Stephen is attending to see if he wants to join the Advisory Board.
- Citizen's Academy – The Recreation and Aquatic Center hosted one night of the Citizen's Academy. The staff gave a presentation on what our department does, did a tour of the facility, and followed up with a Trivia Game about it afterwards. Thank you to Dave for being there.
- Outdoor Recreation Programs – We are exploring ways to get active programs going that utilize the river in Grey Preserve and Frances Avenue Park. Staff spent a day out on the water (kayaking) with Marketing personnel. We are considering ways to partner with similar services and bring in an educational component; Fishing Clinic, Fish & Wildlife, etc. Board members suggested geo-caching as a way to get teens and tweens involved and get them active and outdoors. There was discussion about Bee-Keeping, tying that in with Tasty-Tuesdays, using Kuwailik Park, building a Community Garden, and working with other Boards to get community projects

going. *(Rob said he would give contacts to Terri regarding Bee-Keeping.)

NEW BUSINESS:

- Scholarship Programs – We would like to work with the Advisory Board to re-vamp the scholarship program; we want every child to be able to participate. If resources and funding are beefed up by those who can afford to donate a little bit, more opportunities may become available for Members, Swimming, Camps, and more.
- Facility Access/Accountability – We have had some incidents that is raising awareness on the need to know who is in the facility. If a child is dropped off during the day and does not have a membership, there is not adult to contact. We are looking into how other agencies are handling this issue. We are considering what we can do better and/or differently, such as re-positioning the front desk, training with PD for lockdown procedures, and not allowing drop-offs.
- Secretary and Minutes – Donna is retiring and Carolyn will have to take Minutes at the meetings. (Dana mentioned that she did not get an invitation to the Volunteer dinner. Donna said she would send her one.)
- Director's Report – We made it through Chasco Fiesta 2023. Staff Training and Development – Our department staff received some "Active Assailant" training in March, 2023. Chandler attended Emerging Leaders training. Staff development is a priority for the department.
- Projects – Re-surfacing the Kiddie Pool was over-BID. We are trying to keep these projects moving forward. *(There was an inquiry as to the sidewalk being widened around the Lake, as the grass is dying on each side from people walking on it. Terri said she would pass the information on to the Grounds Maintenance department.) The Gymnasium wall divider and floor refurbishing are pending projects. *(There was an inquiry as to the Sims Park playground flooring that is falling apart. Will the same surface be used again? There is a new one at Grand Blvd. Park playground.) The Meadows Park renovation is moving forward.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- Chasco Fiesta went very well. The carnival didn't do as well; it was in a small space and the quality of the rides was not good. The Trolleys/Shuttles were running and there was good attendance.

- Spring Fling Easter Event – There were at least 400 children that participated and close to 2,000 people in attendance. There were no complaints and the children had a good time.
- Community Yard Sale this Saturday at the RAC – We have several vendors and expect a good turn-out.
- Concert this Saturday at Sims Park – This is the last one of the series for this year. Attendance has been increasing. *(An Inquiry as to why there aren't concerts in the summer months – due to more afternoon thunderstorms, increased heat, and bug activity in the evenings.) We are trying to schedule 6 concerts and 6 movie nights each year. *(A comment was made that the movies need to include closed-captioning.)
- Summer Membership Campaign – The kick-off date for the campaign is May 2nd, 2023.

VOX POP:

We are gearing up for the Summer season; hiring Lifeguards and Summer Camp Counselors.

There were comments about the meeting time being early, but some members would not be available to meet in the evening.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35am.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Hallmark

Donna Hallmark,
Administrative Assistant

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