



Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2024, 7:00pm

Present: Shelly Simpson, Tim Hamer, Guy Goldsmith, Richard Grugin, Nicholas Arnold, Gwen Johnson, Donglin Chai

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve April 4, 2024 minutes: Johnson; Second: Chen. Approved via unanimous consent.

3. Board Openings: Three positions are opening on the Board: Chen, Johnson, Chai terms expire. Nine applications have been received for the three openings. Appointment will be made at a June Council meeting.

3. Reports

Parks Report – Guy Goldsmith

- All seasonal help has been hired and have started work.
- Building maintenance – touch up work at City Hall, information kiosk placed at tennis/pickleball courts, filtration box built at indoor pool.
- Equipment maintenance conducted on summer landscaping machines.
- Mowing and trimming work has been non-stop during the growing season. Staff mows approximately 275 acres.
- Landscaping work and plant replacement for damaged plants underway.
- Vehicle accident at roundabout at Front St and Penn St caused damage to the landscaping which will have to be replaced and repaired.
- Planter boxes across town have all been planted with annuals which require daily watering.
- Red Fern Dog Park has been opened after re-seeding.
- Johnson reminded the community to pick up waste after their pets and to utilize the pet waste disposal bags that are available.
- Thanks to Heritage Christian School students who assisted with mulching of trees and cleaning of brush at Cornerstone Park.
- Liberty Centre Pond fountain has been started.
- Splash pad is open.
- Remarkable Rigs event showcased City equipment.
- Playground inspection is complete for all parks.
- Liberty High students completed build of the pump shed at the Community Gardens.
- Continued preparation for Blues & BBQ on July 13.
- Grugin asked whether there was a designated City flower. There is currently not an official flower for the City.
- Commission members expressed thanks for all the beautification work staff takes care of throughout the year.
- Fox Run Park project will begin in August and Penn Meadows Park will also receive rubberized play area to replace the current mulch.

Recreation/Pool Report—Shelly Simpson

- May is the start of the Recreation summer activities.
- Free Fishing Weekend is just around the corner.
- Outdoor pool was prepared for the Summer season. Pool opened Memorial Day weekend this year.

- Indoor Pool closed on May 11 due to mechanical failures. Replacement parts are being prepared so they can be installed.
- Chen asked how long it takes to fill the indoor pool once repairs are complete. Simpson stated it takes about 48 hours to fill and then a while longer to heat and chemically balance the pool.
- Chai inquired how the pool closure impacts swim lessons and pool memberships. Simpson stated they are looking at options of closing parts of the outdoor pool to accommodate evening lessons. Members will have their subscriptions extended and equal length of the closure.
- Recreation staff has been moving office space after the Communications team moved to City Hall.
- Let Love Fly and Messy Play Date events are coming up in June.
- Ranshaw House concerts begin on Friday evenings.
- Grugin asked how the increased fees at the pool have impacted memberships and what community response has been. Simpson stated there have not been big complaints from pool users. Community members have been inquiring about memberships now that regular pool hours have begun.
- Simpson stated that pool hours are 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. for those with memberships and 1:00 – 9:00 p.m. for all community members.
- Pool staff is working on clarity issues that occasionally forces the pool to close early. When the pool is closed the rain-out hotline for the City will have that information. Arnold asked whether the cloudiness is from sun screen wash off or other factors. Simpson stated it is part of the cause but there are other factors as well.

5. Questions, Concerns, Updates

- Grugin asked whether Community Gardens users would be able to reserve the same spot year over year. There is interest in keeping the same plot and taking care of it. Goldsmith said staff is looking into placing some raised garden plots next year.
- Johnson inquired about the plan for the extra landfill being deposited behind the dog park. Goldsmith stated currently just expanding the footprint of the park for possible expansion. The City puts word out to contractors who can move dirt to the park at no charge.
- With the next Commission meeting falling on July 4, the commission determined to cancel the July meeting and reconvene at the regular August meeting.

5. Community Input / Ideas to Share

6. Upcoming Events

7. New Business

8. Old Business

9. Next Meeting

- a. Thursday, August 1, at 7:00 p.m.

10. Adjourn Motion: Johnson; Second: Chai None opposed.