



**Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
September 5, 2024, 7:00pm**

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

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve August 8, 2024 minutes: Johnson; Second: Chai. Approved via unanimous consent.

3. Reports

Parks Report – Guy Goldsmith

- Parks staff continued with building maintenance, including painting concessions stand and restroom doors at Penn Meadows Park.
- The Sports Field Maintenance Team continued daily maintaining and prepped the fields for fall soccer.
- Landscape team has been hard at work due to all the moisture but has kept up all public landscaping including parks, buildings, and median/roundabout work.
- Staff removed some dead/dying trees and turned them into mulch.
- The Fox Run Playground is nearing completion. Last step will be pouring the surfacing. Penn Meadows Park also received new surfacing, removing the old wood chips and resurfaced.
- Fox Run Trail has been graded and seeded.
- The outdoor basketball court in Penn Meadows has been completed
- Arnold asked whether the new court could be used for an ice rink in the winter. Goldsmith said it could not because it does not have lights and there isn't a way to secure it. The ice rink will not be put out this year but will be placed at Centennial Park once that is complete.
- Penn Meadows Park splash pad was resurfaced and expanded slightly. Splash pads will remain open as long as weather allows.
- Staff repaired a climbing stone at Centennial Park that was vandalized and cut open.
- Tuck pointing at the Community Center is underway.
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Recreation/Pool Report—Shelly Simpson

- Simpson stated August is busy with fall program registrations and directed Board members to the financial statement. The outdoor pool is closed.
- Registration numbers look good for the fall and the database continues to grow with new users of the Center.
- Youth soccer, flag football, and volleyball are underway with approximately 450 participants.
- Recster Summer Camps have concluded for the summer, but before/after school program is now underway.
- About 100 tickets were available to City residents for North Liberty Night at the Kernels.
- The City hosted a street dance and experienced a great response from the community.
- Movie on the Plaza will be on the 13th – “Inside Out”
- Along with the rec center tuck pointing it will receive a fresh coat of paint.
- Grugin asked whether there were many days this summer where the pool reached capacity and people were turned away. Simpson stated there were a few this year due to capacity and/or water clarity. Arnold questioned whether the Iowa City Park Pool closure next summer could affect pool turn out in North Liberty.

- Parrish asked about the increase in daily fees and how it was received. Simpson stated she was surprised there wasn't much negative feedback regarding the increase, but she also didn't see as large a jump in memberships as she thought she might. Parrish praised the use of the twilight swim rates this summer.
- Chai suggested a free t-shirt is included in memberships at the Rec Center.
- Arnold asked whether the membership fees have been revisited since the raise in daily rates. Simpson stated they will likely wait until 2025 to explore this. Arnold suggested it is in place prior to next summer to capture some Iowa City residents seeking an alternative now that City Park pool is closed.
- The Board wondered if/when a second pool would be considered for North Liberty given the growth in population over the past decade. Simpson stated aside from the capital costs and location, staffing for two pools could be a concern.
- The Board discussed ongoing offerings for classes and community members, including Club 24 events, yoga and more.

5. Questions, Concerns, Updates

- Chai congratulated the staff on the recent senior lunch she attended.
- Chai inquired how the family membership is figured. Simpson stated that it applies to whoever is living in the same household.
- Grugin asked whether the Herky statues are coming back. Goldsmith stated one is back at the Gazebo in Penn Meadows.

Community Input / Ideas to Share

- None

5. Upcoming Events

- North Liberty Community Night at the Kernel, August 16

6. New Business

7. Old Business

8. Next Meeting

- a. Thursday, October 3 at 7:00 p.m.

9. Adjourn Motion: Arnold; Second: Johnson. None opposed.