



**Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2024, 7:00pm**

Present: Shelly Simpson, Tim Hamer, Richard Grugin, , Gwen Johnson, Jeremy Parrish, Kevin Smith

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve September 7, 2024 minutes: Johnson; Second: Parrish. Approved via unanimous consent.

3. Reports

Parks Report – Tim Hamer

- Staff completed repair of irrigation pump at Liberty Centre
- Tuck pointing complete on north and west side of community center
- Pickleball courts still seeing everyday use. Staff is cleaning courts as needed.
- Landscaping crews have remained busy and has increased watering of newer plants
- Staff installed new seating area at the Ranshaw House and seeded some of the grass area.
- Sports fields still in use for tournaments and games
- New rubber surfacing installed at the splash pad and new playground equipment has been installed. Pad will remain open as long as temperatures allow.
- Fox Run Park improvement project has been completed and new play area has opened and memorial bench was installed
- Staff conducted erosion mitigation work in two spots along Westlakes bike path.
- Staff added lighting to new welcome sign on Penn Street off the I-380 exit.
- Staff is working on a fix for the Liberty Centre pond fountain.
- Grugin pointed out work on the roundabout on Fairview Ln is also underway.
- Parrish added his thanks for the Fox Run park completion and complimented staff on creating a nice space.
- Parrish asked about algae issues in local ponds. Inquired whether that will be treated chemically. Hamer stated staff has been treating ponds as needed but algae has grown quickly due to lack of rain.
- Johnson asked who monitors the ponds and Hamer stated the Parks department monitors them as does the City stormwater staff. HOA ponds are not monitored by the City.

Recreation/Pool Report—Shelly Simpson

- Simpson stated September is full of activities and sports leagues, many of which will conclude this month.
- Motley stated the new cross country program has seen a good turn out for elementary-age children. Publicity was word of mouth and there are 36 participants this year. He recognized the community members who made it successful.
- Pee Wee football (40 participants) and youth pickleball have been very popular this fall and fall swim lessons began at the end of September with 250 participants.
- Aqua programs have earned 89 registered participants plus drop ins.
- Tippiie Toes dance classes served 59 students this session
- New class this fall – Maintaining Cars 101 served 17 people of all ages.
- Special Events – Outdoor movie held at City Hall on the plaza was well attended
- Simpson directed the Board to review numbers and financial reports

- Parrish noted he saw lacrosse being practiced in Coralville and asked whether that was something the City had considered. Motley stated it had been brought up in the past but space is hard to come by. If additional green space is added in the future five-year plan, this can be revisited.
- Staff is exploring adaptive sports options for the community
- Staff also met with staff from Iowa State University who can visit City fields and help determine how to best encourage grass growth and best maintenance for the type of soil.

5. Questions, Concerns, Updates

- Grugin suggested that City staff update the Board on the five-year plan for parks at a future meeting.

Community Input / Ideas to Share

- None

5. Upcoming Events

- a. Halloween Trail at Liberty Centre is October 11
- b. Pumpkin Carving on October 16
- c. Trick or Treat will be on October 31
- d. Nightmare on Ale Street is October 18

6. New Business

7. Old Business

8. Next Meeting

- a. Thursday, November 7 at 7:00 p.m.

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