



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

Present: Brian Motley, Tim Hamer, Guy Goldsmith, Richard Grugin, , Shannon Greene, Nick Arnold, Gwen Johnson, Donglin Chai

1. Call to Order

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

3. Reports

Parks Report – Guy Goldsmith

- Goldsmith stated the Parks team is getting ready for winter and getting equipment ready.
- Tuckpointing and painting at the Community Center is complete.
- Fall sports are wrapping up seasons.
- Koser Park ballfield backstop is being replaced.
- Fall prairie mowing and general mowing complete. Unable to burn this year due to construction areas.
- Tree removal of dead and dying Ash trees continues.
- Penn Meadows splash pad and restrooms have been winterized, along with fountains and pool.
- Liberty Centre pond project to repair outcropping rocks will begin in month of December and be completed in the spring. The pond depth will be lowered in order to accommodate. Crew will also likely dredge the north end of the pond which is only a few inches deep due to silt and erosion over the past 18 years. Project cost is approximately \$132,000. Arnold asked about the repair to the fountains which need some electrical work and Goldsmith stated that will be done as well. Johnson asked whether the dredging is something that will have to be completed again over time. Goldsmith said that yes, due to natural erosion it will have to be done from time to time.
- Park staff attended recertification for aquatic forest program for applying herbicide and pesticides. City and employees both need to be licensed for this work.
- Iowa DNR released 2000 rainbow trout in Liberty Centre pond on October 25. There has been a lot of fishing since then. Most fish will likely be gone by the time the water level is dropped.
- Ten trees planted from the Trees Please grant the City received. Trees were placed near the Owen Skelley field to provide shade.
- Three Park employees are working to receive commercial drivers license in order to drive large trucks for city work.
- Multiple meetings for Centennial Park project. Foundation is in and metal work is beginning this month. Freedom Park Trail project is in the final design phase and will connect to the City trail system. North Liberty Road trail is in design phase as well and will connect from Penn Meadows Park out past the Dog Park when complete. This will involve creating a median in the area near the Dog Park.
- Staff created a trail crossing on Stone Creek Trail.
- Chai inquired about Centennial Park construction site work and Goldsmith stated that sanitary sewer work is being done for the facility.

Recreation/Pool Report—Brian Motley

- Halloween Moon Walk in October was well attended. Congratulations to Matt Meseck for coordinating.
- Center held pumpkin painting, carving, and a pumpkin float in October.
- Sports leagues are wrapping up for the season, aside from basketball leagues which run through mid-December.
- Supreme basketball, golf leagues sign up is underway.
- Connection Luncheons are growing in popularity. 150 lunches served in October. Space is limited for the lunch so there isn't much room to grow. Averaging 40ish people per lunch. Greene asked whether a second day could be offered to accommodate the growing numbers. Motley stated that is a possibility but not in the budget. More space would be ideal.
- Center is replacing the van with a new one from Junge Automotive.
- Approximately \$15,000 will be spent on new weight room equipment.
- Indoor playground Jeep is being refurbished as it is worn down. Approximately \$9000.
- One air handling unit went out in the Roberts Gym. The gym contains five in total but replacement cost is \$25,000 for each. Arnold asked whether that was a budgeted replacement and Motley stated they have a plan to address issues that arise and can submit a budget amendment.

5. Questions, Concerns, Updates

- Chai asked whether it was possible to upgrade the shampoo and body wash in the locker room showers. Perhaps exploring a partnership with Proctor and Gamble. Staff will look into it.
- Chai asked whether it was possible to add a step in the bathrooms for small children to use to reach the sinks.

6. Community Input / Ideas to Share

- Girl Scout Troop 3743 Juniors presented a proposal to the Board to create a supply station at the Dog Park that would provide dog treats, water, and assorted supplies to users of the park. This is part of their Take Action journey to better the community. The concept is this would be a free supply station similar to a little library, enclosed to keep items out of the elements. It would include a guest book, a space for lost pet posters and event flyers. Johnson thanked the troop for their proposal and asked who would build the station and what it would look like. The Troop stated it would be on a post and off the ground and they would be willing to build and place the station. The Troop would like to build the station over the winter and install in the spring. Grugin stated that staff would likely be willing to assist with the details that would have to be arranged to complete the project. The Board was unanimous this project has merit and should be pursued.

7. Upcoming Events

5. New Business

6. Old Business

7. Next Meeting

- a. Thursday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m.

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