



**Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2025, 7:00pm**

Present: Shelly Simpson, Brian Motley, Tim Hamer, Guy Goldsmith, Richard Grugin, Shannon Greene, Gwen Johnson, Kevin Smith, Jeremy Parrish, Donglin Chai

1. Call to Order

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

3. Reports

Parks Report – Guy Goldsmith

- Goldsmith stated staff has been conducting building and equipment maintenance, snow and ice removal.
- Staff will be upgrading Penn Meadows lighting to be on demand LED lights on the tennis courts and other improvement projects. Trail improvement projects coming for Forevergreen Road and near the new food pantry on Penn Street. Will be upgrading trail and pond in Fox Run. Trails on North Liberty Road are also planned for the future. Freedom Park Trail design is out for bid.
- Liberty Centre Pond was dredged and outcropping work is slated to be complete by the end of March. About 4-5 feet of silt was removed from the pond. Parrish asked about habitat areas for fish to spawn and Goldsmith stated an Eagle Scout project had installed PVC pipe that serves that purpose.
- Preparing for 2025-26 fiscal year operating budget. Includes funds for additional employees.
- Staff assisted in the Fire & Ice event.
- Department is seeking seasonal departmental workers for the summer.
- Commissioners commented the work on the new Centennial Park facility looks great.
- Staff will be working on new surfacing at City destination parks.

Recreation/Pool Report—Shelly Simpson

- Increase in use of the center after the new year.
- Youth sports programs started and have 629 youths in the basketball leagues.
- Staff is working on 2025-26 budget.
- Maintenance projects are ongoing in pool and outside labor will fix some recurring pool issues at both indoor and outdoor pools. Will also begin parking lot work.
- Aquatic programs, dance programs, and more have begun with solid participant numbers.
- Ballfield lottery is this month. Rentals start in April. Commission discussed parking issues at the fields and parking on grass areas causing damage.
- New BASP van has been delivered

5. Questions, Concerns, Updates

6. Community Input / Ideas to Share

7. Upcoming Events

- Iowa Parks and Rec Association will be held in late March. Hosted by North Liberty, Coralville, and Iowa City. City departments will host sessions.

- New Business
- Old Business
 - Revised Recreation Center Membership & Rental Rates
 - o Simpson provided the Commission the report detailing the new rental and membership rates scheduled to take effect April 1, 2025.
 - o Pool rental rates were increased to cover staffing costs associated with staffing the pool during rental period.
 - o Room rental rates were simplified and rental rate increased slightly.
 - o Johnson asked whether the Commission needed to provide approval. Simpson stated they are finding out whether the rate increases require City Council approval. Commission agreed rates were very reasonable and competitive.
 - o Park shelter rental process is moving online, rates not changing. There was discussion about how rentals work in practice. Renters suggested to have hard copy of reservation with them during reservation time. Commission suggested some sort of signage at the shelters informing community members on where to make a reservation and a financial penalty if shelters are left uncleaned after a rental.
 - o Recreation Center memberships will change from the color code system to a system that specifically calls out what portion of the center is applicable to the membership – either pool, recreation facility, or both. Staff researching how revenue must be split and accounted for. The Commission held general discussion regarding the proposed changes and informing community members of cost benefits of an annual membership.
- Next Meeting
 - a. Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
- Adjourn Motion: Johnson; Second: Greene. None opposed.