

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD OF THE CITY OF MITCHELL  
March 11, 2021

A regular meeting of the Mitchell Parks and Recreation Board was held Thursday March 11, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Mary Ellen Jepsen, President at 6:00 p.m., at the City Hall council Chambers.

The following members of the Board were present: Mary Ellen Jepsen, Andy Jerke, Amanda Johnson, Chris Retterath. Absent: Pak Skinner, Shawn Erickson, Luke Norden. Council Liaison: Marty Barington. Staff present: Nate Powell, Kevin DeVries, Angel DeWaard, Steve Roth, Jeremy Nielsen. Sam Fosness Daily Republic Newspaper.

Public Input: Kathy Axsom, Women's League/Coed Softball President addressed the Board looking for clarification on purchase and repair of scoreboards, as there are multiple user groups. Director Powell informed the Board all user groups (i.e.: tennis, hockey, swim club) purchase their own scoreboard, which are listed under city fixed asset so can be covered by insurance; also we have not been charging softball for any scoreboard repairs. Axsom questioned if a scoreboard went down this year what happens. Powell noted if repair funds were not available, you would have to go to council to ask for funds. Board held a brief discussion, not action was taken at this time.

Additions or Deletions: Move item "C" Action to Finalize and Approve Firesteel Park Concept Design up under Delegations.

Motion Jerke, Second Johnson to move item "C" Action to Finalize and Approve Firesteel Park Concept Design up under Delegations. Motion approved and carried.

A delegation from Confluence represented by Lyle Pudwill was present via phone. Mr. Pudwill reviewed the Firesteel Park concept design showing potential summer and winter activities, noting design view looks northwest showing the cabins, parking lot (70-80 cars, can be expanded), lodge, with grassy area northwest of building that could be utilized as a skating rink in the winter and greenspace in summer, south of building lawn could be utilized as an event area/game area, with roadway located to the south. Firesteel Park sign would be place where road heads south around park. Pudwill reviewed concept design of trailheads, ponds, sledding hills, bike and multiuse trails. Board member Jepsen questioned if a flagpole with solar light could be placed by the Firesteel Park sign. Pudwill stated it could be placed anywhere, Powell noted he would like to have it located close to the building. Board expressed concern with low precipitation winters, how to monitor sledding hill usage in the winter, placement of a gazebo at the top of the sledding hill for shade by trail users in the summer and what material would be used to making trails. Pudwill noted there would be snow making abilities, lift tickets would be required to go up sledding hill, a gazebo is possible but there would be challenges until site is stabilized, beginning phase for trails would be gravel until it is know what hill will do during settling. Powell noted the only addition at this point is the flagpole.

Minutes of the February 11, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Motion Johnson, second Retterath to approve the February 11, 2021 Minutes as read. Motion approved and carried.

Motion Retterath, Second Jerke to approve the Bills as submitted. Motion approved and carried.

Kevin DeVries reviewed the Recreation Center Report. Youth travel basketball league ended February 11<sup>th</sup>, youth wrestling and swimming lessons will wrap up in March. Distribution of the summer brochure by the paper will be April 7<sup>th</sup> and to the schools April 9<sup>th</sup>. Online registration will start on April 19<sup>th</sup>. We will do our Outdoor Aquatic Center family season pass sale May 3<sup>rd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> and will be offering a 25% discount for family passes only. The Cardio Index program Thomas & Adam are doing with the State Health Department has over 40 people enrolled and will continue until July. We have 14 participants signed up for the diabetes prevention program that started on March 8<sup>th</sup>, running once a week for 16 weeks followed by once a month for 6 months. Swim club hosted the State 13 & under meet March 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, we closed the indoor aquatic center and both gyms. No official date yet of when we will be draining the two pools for inspection and what all needs to be done to fix the plaster in the Rec Pool. We had our first planning meeting for the remodel of the old pool area and are working with Schemmer design out of Sioux Falls along with Joe Schroeder and Terry Johnson from the city.

Steve Roth reviewed the Parks and Forestry Report. Projects we are working on or have completed are: Tree removals on boulevards and parks; Trimming trees; Maintenance on equipment; Bucket truck got repaired had to replace the hydraulic pump and a cylinder; Cut and split firewood for campground; Water line repair and cleanup at Deerland Estate; Put up the tennis nets, tennis practice starts on March 15<sup>th</sup>; Put a few more trash cans out in the parks; Attended a virtual Arborist Conference; Snow removal.

Jeremy Nielsen reviewed the Sports Complex Report.

#### *Ice Arena*

- All home league hockey games are done. Last of the taste tournaments were last weekend. Drop hokey is scheduled through March as of now
- Figure skating added about 50 hours and are going through April
- Two figure skating shows, a clinic and men's league tournament left
- We stopped open skate/bumper cars M-TH. Only doing Friday, Saturday and Sunday. I will continue with those 3 days until we aren't making money anymore. Weekend of Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> we made just over \$1,000. We are taking bumper car reservations, 5 car minimum, for anyone wanting to ride outside our scheduled times
- Ice maintenance, cleaning
- Rinktec came to fix the leaks in the north compressors. Just over \$11,000. I am waiting to talk to the Rinktec president about changing over to the compressors we have in the south rink

#### *Cadwell*

- DWU baseball and softball have started practicing. Baseball has had one game cancelled, 3-2-21, both teams next scheduled games are 3-19-21

- Staff is cleaning up leaves, setting out garbage cans, dumpsters, put up the batting cage net, hitters eye on Drake
- When the softball fields and park fields are dryer we will be putting bases out
- Travel team meeting scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup>
- Checking the weather to see when we can turn on bathrooms

#### *Soccer*

- DWI starts practice on the 15<sup>th</sup>, waiting to hear when MSA will be starting
- Started putting on nets and putting out garbage cans

Director Powell reviewed the monthly Department Report.

#### ***Major Incidents/Significant Events***

- Diamond Brite warranty initiated in indoor pool

#### ***Important Meetings and Training Attended***

- Friends of Firesteel Meeting
- Parks Board Meeting
- City Council Meetings
- MACPD meeting
- Sports and Events Authority meeting
- Weekly and Quarterly staff meetings
- Weekly Department Head management meetings
- R8 HAB conference call
- Golf & Cemetery Board Meeting
- Firesteel Park Planning Meetings with city staff, parks board & trail committee
- Park Specialist Interviews
- Old Pool Room planning meeting with contractor and City Staff

#### ***Project Outcomes***

- National Guard Application Submitted
- Dredging design firm selected for City Council Approval
- Firesteel Park Public Meetings Completed
- Lake Mitchell Master Plan approved by P&R Board
- Bike trail plan approved by P&R Board
- Summer Agreements approved by P&R Board
- Event Permit approved by P&R Board
- Rec Center Agreement approved by P&R Board
- Golf cart contingency funds approved by council
- Shared roadway signage approved by council
- Park Specialist Interviews Complete

#### ***Current Projects***

- Lake restoration project
- Skate Park Upgrade
- Digital Cemetery
- Golf course master plan
- Tennis Association Agreement
- Lake Mitchell trail markers

- Refurbish pond on Indian Village Rd
- Dredging design
- Golf Course Fly over Edits
- Firesteel Park Planning
- Dry Run Creek Trail Lighting
- SDNG project
- Deerland Estate Controller Issues
- Golf Cart Replacement
- Ice Arena shared wall remediation

***Upcoming Special Events and Meetings***

- Parks Board meeting
- Friends of Firesteel meeting
- MACPD meeting
- City Council Meetings
- Monthly SEAC meetings
- Monthly Region 8 HAB's conference call
- Golf & Cemetery Board Meetings
- Golf course master plan selection committee

Director Powell submitted a request to the Board to approve the Agreement with American Ramp Company for the skate park upgrades. Powell noted they were chosen a few years ago as they had a good concept design, which went through public input as well. They will be focusing on the area west of the existing skate park where a bowl and small street area are to be constructed; the existing skate park will remain the same. Funding is through private donations, a grant and city funding. Project pricing is state pricing and the city attorney has approved the contract. Powell noted he would like to add 180 days completion of project to contract, which the company is good with it. After a brief discussion, Motion Jerke, Second Johnson to approve the Agreement with American Ramp Company with the addition of 180 days completion added to the contract. Motion approved and carried.

The Board held a brief discussion on the Firesteel Park Concept Design submitted by Confluence. Motion Johnson, Second Retterath to approve the Firesteel Park Concept Design as presented. Motion approved and carried.

There being no further business the Board adjourned at 7:18 p.m., noting Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 6:00 P.M., at the City Hall Council Chambers as the date of the next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board.