

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD OF THE CITY OF MITCHELL  
May 13, 2021

A regular meeting of the Mitchell Parks and Recreation Board was held Thursday, May 13, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Mary Ellen Jepsen, President at 6:02 p.m., at the City Hall Council Chambers.

The following members of the Board were present: Mary Ellen, Andy Jerke, Amanda Johnson, Chris Retterath, Pat Skinner, Luke Norden. Absent: Shawn Erickson. Council Liaison: Marty Barington. Staff present: Nate Powell, Kevin DeVries, Angel DeWaard, Steve Roth, Jeremy Nielson.

Minutes of the April 8, 2021 meeting were reviewed Motion Retterath, second Johnson to approve the April 8, 2021 Minutes as read. Motion approved and carried.

Motion Johnson, second Skinner to approve the Bills as submitted. Motion approved and carried.

Kevin DeVries reviewed the Recreation Center Report. Summer program registration began April 19<sup>th</sup>. Our 5/6 grade national league baseball program started on May 2<sup>nd</sup> with 3 teams comprising of 36 kids. Family summer outdoor aquatic center pool pass sale will run May 3<sup>rd</sup> through May 9<sup>th</sup>. As of May 5<sup>th</sup> we have sold 107 family passes. Todd hosted his 4<sup>th</sup> annual disc golf tournament on May 1<sup>st</sup> with 15 participants. The cardio index program Thomas and Adam are doing has helped a lot with getting people in the doors. Thomas has been having his diabetes prevention program and class on Monday nights. Both programs are co-sponsored by the State Department of Health. Yoga class started in April on Wednesday evenings due to high demand we added Monday as well. Yoga class will run through the end of May and will take the summer off and start up again after Labor Day. Accapoulco pools will be coming the week of May 10<sup>th</sup> to inspect the indoor pools to get an early assessment of the cracking and peeling of the diamond brite. The plan is still to drain the pools at the end of July and they would start their repairs August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Steve Roth reviewed the Parks and Forestry Report. Projects we are working on or have completed are: Turning water on to restrooms, shelters and some irrigation systems; Turned on the water at the Lake Mitchell Campground and getting it cleaned up; Veterans Park fountain is up and going; Started work at the outdoor pool getting it ready for the summer; Cleaning up parks and landscape areas downtown; Moved the handicap fishing docks out to Franks Bay and Sportsman's Club; Put in the west end dock and the docks at Day Camp and campground; Planted two trees at the Library for Arbor Day; Fertilized downtown areas, outdoor pool and Hitchcock flower gardens; Finishing up tree removals; The new floors and bathroom partitions got installed in the Enclosed Shelter in Hitchcock; DWU picked up litter around Lake Mitchell for their day of care on May 4<sup>th</sup>; Helped Public Works with the demolition of the building on the

corner of 1<sup>st</sup> and Lawler; Started taking water samples for phosphorous and microcystines at the lake.

Jeremy Nielson reviewed the Sports Complex Report.

#### *Cadwell*

- DWU baseball and softball is done
- Started Park & Rec programs on May 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Men's slow pitch softball starts May 12<sup>th</sup>, Women's starts May 13<sup>th</sup>
- Checking/replacing field lights on softball fields
- Early Bird Tournament 12U was May 1<sup>st</sup>, 35 teams, concessions sold about \$5,900 in product
- 2 seasonal employees started on Monday, 2-3 more starting next Monday
- Mitchell baseball has games going, 10 games this week, then they are off May 18<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> so we will be doing work on the stadium, then Legion starts
- Started to do some spraying, fertilizing fields next week
- We had a few irrigation and bathroom water breaks, all but one is fixed
- We started going through irrigation heads
- Dakota Bulldogs started their season May 1<sup>st</sup> and Tri-State Buffalos will be playing of the off weeks of the Dakota Bulldogs, their first game was May 8<sup>th</sup>
- Helping the associations find field sponsors for scoreboard on the west softball fields
- Working on turf for Drake infield

#### *Soccer*

- MSA has started games; they play on Saturdays until the end of June
- DWU is done with their spring season
- Going through irrigation heads
- Fertilize fields next week
- Mowing and painting soccer fields

#### *Ice Arena*

- Last weekend was May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Took ice out this week
- I will be doing the end of the year billing for hockey and figure skating in next couple of weeks
- Working on new compressors for the north rink

Director Powell reviewed the monthly Department Report.

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

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#### ***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
- City Employee luncheon
- Cemetery expansion discussion with Brosz Engineering
- Golf Course Public Forum
- Site visit with American Dredging in Chamberlain

***Project Outcomes***

- Golf Cart Replacement Bid Awarded
- Dredging Design Firm Selected by Council (Barr Engineering)
- Golf Course Master Plan awarded to Norby Golf Course Designs by G&C Board
- Updated Algal Bloom Guidelines with Board
- Updated Life Jacket Policy Denied by Board

***Current Project***

- Skate Park Upgrade (starts first week in June)
- Digital Cemetery
- Golf course master plan
- Lake Mitchell trail markers
- Refurbish pond on Indian Village Rd
- Dredging design
- Golf Course Fly Over Edits
- Dry Run Creek Trail Lighting
- SDNG project
- Shared Roadway Installation
- Jetty & Boat Dock Installation

***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
- Transportation Plan Meetings for Public Works
- Discussion with ice arena refrigeration installers
- Department quarterly staff meeting
- Trail grant site visit with South Dakota Parks
- BARR coring investigations

***Change in Park/Facility Status***

- Diamond Brite Warranty Issues
- Zipline Warranty Replacement
- Ice Arena Roof Warranty Repair

***Public Requests***

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Director Powell presented a request to the Board seeking approval to move forward with the Artificial Turf Project on Drake Field and to define an acceptable matching donation level. Cost would be \$300,000 and would be placed in the 2022 budget cycle. Board questioned cost. Powell noted \$300,000 for the artificial turf and \$100,000 for fencing, backstop, bullpen, however, only seeking approval to move forward with requesting the funding for the artificial turf. Retterath questioned if there have been any donations. Jeremy Nielson informed the Board there has been \$145,000 in donations from outside sources and more donors are being sought out. Johnson inquired as to why only Drake Field and not all the fields. Nielson noted that Drake Field gets the most use, however he would like to see all the fields have artificial turf. Retterath questioned the life expectancy of artificial turf and if additional equipment for maintaining it would need to be purchased. Nielson stated life expectancy for artificial turf is 10-12 years with a maximum of 15 and the only additional equipment needed is a broom, which more companies provide. Also, a turf project generally takes about 6 weeks from start to finish. After a brief discussion, Motion Johnson, Second Skinner to support moving forward with the Artificial Turf Project on Drake Field for \$300,000 and to seek a 50% donation match for the field and a 50% donation match for bullpens. Motion approved and carried.

There being no further business the Board adjourned at 6:47 p.m., noting Thursday, June 10, 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.