

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE RESCHEDULED  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD OF THE CITY OF MITCHELL  
June 17, 2021

A regular meeting of the Mitchell Parks and Recreation Board was held Thursday, June 17, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Mary Ellen Jepsen, President at 7:00 p.m., at the City Hall Council Chambers.

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

A delegation represented by Rick Agnitsch were present. Mr. Agnitsch submitted a request to the Board seeking support for improvements to the dog park funded by donations noting the donations received would be utilized for the following improvements: Memorial wall between the 2 gates on the North end of the park with one side designated for Davison County Sheriff, Mitchell Police Dept., DCI and Highway Patrol K9's and the other for citizens to purchase a plaque with their deceased dogs name on it; Build 2 shelters (one on each side) with room for 2 picnic tables in the shade and the ability to add temporary siding on 2 sides for late fall and winter weather protection for users; Build one additional shelter with 1 picnic table near exercise area on SW corner of park; Build an exercise area for small dogs along fence on East side of park; Put up a wash station on each side of park; Put a porta-potty outside main gate of park; Put up lighting (solar) for dog park with motion sensors; Add rock around benches and water stations; Designated parking spots for dog park; Speed limit signs and/or speed bumps on road east of dog park. Mr. Agnitsch inquired if Park and Rec could establish a separate account to receive donations and pay invoices. Director Powell noted this is feasible and consideration should be given to prioritizing projects. After a brief discussion, Motion Norden, Second Retterath to support the dog park improvements as presented. Motion approved and carried.

Additions or Deletions: Move agenda item "D" under New Business to the first agenda item. Motion Retterath, Second Jerke to move agenda item "D" under New Business to first agenda item under New Business. Motion approved and carried.

Minutes of the May 13, 2021 meeting were reviewed Motion Retterath, Second Skinner to approve the May 13, 2021 Minutes as read. Motion approved and carried.

Motion Retterath, Second Norden to approve the Bills as submitted. Motion approved and carried with Jerke abstaining from voting due to a conflict of interest.

Julie Hart Shutte, current Mitchell Kiwanis Club President submitted a request to the Board to approve the location and design of a playground expansion project at the Kiwanis Woodlot Park. In honor of our 100 year Anniversary, we would like to make some improvements by

having an inclusive, accessible playground built next to the current playground. Features of the new playground would include a rocking raft and see-saw, along with a musical activity area and swinging bench, which are all accessible for individuals with disabilities. To make the playground meet accessibility standards, a concrete paved path would stretch from the sidewalk in the playground. Powell noted the city would cover the cost of the surfacing (woodchips) and border. Ms. Hart Shutte noted the cost would be approximately \$64,000 and Kiwanis Club already has half of the funds and is confident they will be able to acquire grant funds for the remaining. We would like to add a special dedication of the park in the memory of a wheelchair bound club member who passed away a couple of years ago at the groundbreaking ceremony, which we hope will take place this fall. Director Powell informed the Board the existing playground is slated for replacement in 4-6 years so this project would just be for expansion of the new inclusive playground and the existing playground would be replaced when it comes up in the replacement rotation. In terms of budgeting if it is a fall or spring project, if it is a spring project it will be easy to get in the budget as a donation and a request there won't be any cost to the city. Retterath questioned if there are any plans to expand the parking lot or improve the restroom. Powell noted there are plans for parking lot expansion and will research upgrading the restroom. After a brief discussion Motion Norden, Second Retterath to approve the Kiwanis Club Donation, Playground Expansion Design and location. Motion approved and carried.

The Board reviewed the Recreation Center Report. Summer programs began the week of June 1<sup>st</sup>, with a few starting June 7<sup>th</sup>. Softball and baseball are down a little with the formation of younger traveling teams. Growing gardeners program has been pushed back to July due to the instructor having an unfortunate accident. The outdoor aquatic center was slated to open Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup> but due to the cold weather, it opened on Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. Rec Center has been busy. We will be hosting the Cornbelt basketball team camps utilizing both gyms on Wednesday & Thursday June 2-3, 910-, 16-17<sup>th</sup>. We are planning to drain both pools starting July 26<sup>th</sup>, which will take 6-7 days. Acapulco pools will come in on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, do their test to the surface, and then patch all the cracks they find. During that time, we will acid wash the comp pool to remove the stain as we did to the Rec pool back in April 2020. The entire process will most likely take the month of August and we will be back up in September.

The Board reviewed the Parks and Forestry Report. Project we are working on or have completed are: Outdoor pool opening May 28<sup>th</sup>; Ongoing repairs and maintenance at outdoor pool now that it's open; Resurfacing of the 5 tennis courts started June 2<sup>nd</sup>, they are going to work on 3 courts then come back after the tennis tournament starting on June 11<sup>th</sup> and finish the last 2 courts; Irrigation maintenance; Pulling weeds in flowerbeds and landscape area; Flowers got planted downtown at the Plaza and Chamber pots; Redid 4 RV sites at the campground; Skate Park construction should start this week; Put in the buoys at the lake; Dragged and cleaned up beaches; Catching up on mowing and trimming; Cleaned up tree piles around the lake; Fertilized Hitchcock, Pioneer and Patton Young Parks.

Jeremy Nielson reviewed the Sports Complex Report.

#### *Cadwell*

- Tournaments: Teener tournament June 4-5; Lowell Ran June 11-13; Harve's June 19-20
- All of Park and Rec has started. 9-noon on DEGF, A and C 9-noon and ABC 6-7:30 (M-Fri)
- Dedication for Cadwell Bust is June 16<sup>th</sup> between the legion doubleheader
- We had 10 days of on the Stadium May 18-27. We did a lot of work: sod, edge, new dugout pad covers, leveling and other field work
- Lots of work on irrigation with this hot weather
- Daily mowing, cleaning bathrooms, garbage pick-ups and field work
- We got all fields fertilized
- Slow pitch men's and women's softball is still going on
- Softball has gotten one donation for a scoreboard and Sport Authority will match the one that Softball got. I have another business that will donate and have a couple interested in the last one, should have all 4 donated by end of next week

#### *Soccer*

- MSA is still practicing and having games on Saturdays
- We will have a Lacrosse camp come June 19-20 (canceled) and July 17-18 (still on)
- Irrigation work
- Mowing
- Daily maintenance: garbage's and restrooms
- Working on new compressors for the north rink (hope to have by August and ice by mid Sept.)

Director Powell reviewed the monthly Department Report.

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

- Uptick in vandalism throughout the parks this year

#### ***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
- Transportation plan meeting
- Dry Run Grant Site Visit
- Golf Course Public Input Session
- Local Campground Visits
- Volunteered for Memorial Day Weekend Event
- Flowbird Training (pay station @ campground)

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

- Lake coring investigations with BARR Engineering complete
- Ice Arena refrigeration system replacement approved by council

- West Nile Grant submitted
- Submitted 2022 capital requests to board

### ***Current Projects***

- Skate Park Upgrade
- 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
- Ice Arena Roof Warranty
- Sunstone Warranty
- Zipline Warranty
- 2022 Budget

### ***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
- Jetty Grant Site Visit
- 2022 Capital Budget discussions with Supervisors

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

- Outdoor Pool Opened two days late due to weather
- Skatepark install expected in June

### ***Public Requests***

- Keep spare parts on hand for rec center water features such as the hot tub

Director Powell gave a Water Quality update.

Director Powell reviewed the proposed 2022 Capital Project requests. Powell noted the far right column lists any donations, enterprise funds trade-in value or grants that would be applied towards the estimate. Proposed capital projects include the following: Recreation & Aquatics – Remodel entrance and lobby area, Replace original deck chairs at outdoor pool, Replace cardio equipment; Parks – Utilities for cabins (campground), Patton Young inclusive playground, Replace 2006 JD Outfront Mover (4,000+ Hrs), Brush cutter for Bobcat, Dry Run Creek trail lighting, Restroom for west end of Dry Run Creek (skatepark/playground area); Sports Complex – Replace 1993 F-150, Artificial Turf for Drake Field (going to council 6/21/21 so

may be pulled), Backstop Replacement for Drake Field, Artificial Turf for Drake Field bullpen, Mower trailer for hauling mowers for servicing, Replace 1996 Cushman (4137 hrs), ADA Ramp for Stadium. Norden questioned location of ADA ramp. Nielson noted if would have to be right in front of the first row, the ramp would be on right side consisting of 3 ramp going up down up to give the proper ADA compliant slope. Powell noted the Board could vote either on this proposed requests as submitted or table until next meeting to allow for additions or deletions to the list. After a lengthy discussion Motion Retterath, Second Skinner to table the 2022 Capital Project requests until the July meeting. Motion approved and carried.

The Board reviewed a request from the Texas Jammers to waive the fee for the use of the Sportsman Club on Monday, August 12, 2021 for the day to host a "Welcome to Mitchell" event that would include a meet & greet, music and outside food vendors and would be open to the public as a free event. DeWaard noted the Texas Jammers will be performing at varies events August 23<sup>rd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> and several will be staying at the campground during that time, also, two years ago they held a similar event in Hitchcock Park. Motion Jerke, Second Retterath to approve waiving the fee of \$117.15 for the use of the Sportsman Club on Monday, August 12, 2021 by the Texas Jammers for their "Welcome to Mitchell" event. Motion approved and carried.

Jepsen inquired if recycling containers could be placed in the parks as the amount of recyclable trash throughout the city parks is pretty substantial. Powell noted we will make sure they are placed out for events and our heavily used parks.

There being no further business the Board adjourned at 8:07 p.m., noting Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 7:00 P.M., at the City Hall Council Chambers as the date of the next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board.