

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD OF THE CITY OF MITCHELL  
June 11, 2020

A regular meeting of the Mitchell Parks and Recreation Board was held on Thursday, June 11, 2020. The meeting was called to order by Brian Johnson, President at 6:00 p.m., at the City Hall Council Chambers.

The following members of the Board were present: Brian Johnson, Dennis Marek, Mary Ellen Jepsen, Chris Retterath, Andy Jerke. Absent: Pat Skinner, Shawn Erickson. Council Liaison: Marty Barington. Staff present: Nate Powell, Angel DeWaard, Steve Roth, Jeremy Nielsen, Thomas Gullede. Sam Fosness Daily Republic Newspaper.

Public Input: Board President Johnson informed the Board the Daily Republic ran an article on the Red Cadwell Bust project, noting the article stated the City was paying for the project. Johnson made a request to Sam Fosness, Daily Republic Newspaper, whom was present at the meeting to have the newspaper print a correction to the article. Johnson also noted that at Dry Run Creek park on Minnesota Street on the east side of the Minnesota Street Bridge the weeds have been allowed to get five feet high and would like to see this taken care immediately.

Additions to the Agenda: Add the Water Quality Report as agenda item F under New Business. Motion Jerke, Second Jepsen to add the Water Quality Report as agenda item F under New Business. Motion approved and carried.

A delegation from Dakota Riptide Swim Club represented by Ron Parker, President were present. Mr. Parker stated practices began on June 8<sup>th</sup>, however, due to the club combining Huron and Mitchell athletes they were told the Huron athletes could not use the pool due to Covid 19 concerns. Mr. Parker reviewed with the Board a handout that covered Dakota Riptide Covid 19 Restart Plan. Parker also noted they are following all state, federal, local and association guidelines. They also rent the pool, use designated times, all swimmers come in ready, no parents are allowed, they do not use locker rooms or restrooms and are willing to do temperature checks and document them. Board member Jerke questioned how many athletes are from Huron, Parker responded there are 15. Parker also noted they would only be utilizing the indoor pool for a month and then will be completely moving to the outdoor pool. Board President Johnson inquired if this should be taken to the Mayor. Powell stated the Mayor is aware and would like the Park Board to make the decision. After a brief discussion, Motion Marek, Second Jepsen to approve allowing the Huron Riptide athletes to use the indoor Rec Center pool. Motion approved and carried.

A delegation from Mitchell Baseball represented by Jeff Schmidt, President were present. Mr. Schmidt informed the Board that Mitchell Baseball is seeking permission to construct a Hall of Fame wall just west of the location where the Red Cadwell Bust will be located. The wall would be approximately 8'x10' and would bring to attention all of those whom have contributed to

the sports complex. Mr. Schmidt noted the project would be paid for by Mitchell Baseball. A brief discussion was held by the Board. President Johnson informed Mr. Schmidt the Board would be in support of the project but Jeremy Nielsen, Sports Complex Supervisor is to be involved and when you have a plan, it must be brought back to the Board.

Minutes of the May 14, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Motion Marek, Second Jerky to approve the May 14, 2020 regular Minutes as read. Motion approved and carried.

Minutes of the May 28, 2020 special meeting were reviewed. Motion Jepsen, Second Marek to approve the May 28, 2020 special meeting minutes with the notation that the Daily Republic Newspaper be contacted to correct the article on the Red Cadwell Bust project stating the family not the city is funding the project. Motion approved and carried.

Motion Retterath, Second Jepsen to approve the Bills as submitted. Board President Johnson called for a Roll Call vote. Jepsen – Yah, Marek – Yah, Jerky – Abstained, Retterath – Yah, Johnson – Yah. Motion approved and carried.

Director Powell reviewed the 2021 Capital Requests with the Board. Powell informed the Board the list is the same as last month with the exception of replacing the request for a toolcat with much needed vehicles. In addition, we will be holding off on the north rink compressor and will focus on the old pool. Jeremy Nielsen noted the north rink has an R22 system, which uses refrigerant gas, this gas is no longer being made, as it is considered not environmentally friendly. We do have enough and will be working on getting a better quote. Motion Jerky, Second Retterath to approve the 2020 Capital Requests and submitted. Motion approved and carried.

Thomas Gulledge reviewed the Recreation Center Report. Things have been going well so far since we have opened the Rec Center. Jamie has done a great job preparing her staff for opening the outdoor pool on June 8<sup>th</sup> as well as open swim at the Rec Center on June 8<sup>th</sup>. The new CDC guidelines on reopening outdoor pools came out and our plan is right in line with their suggestions. Todd is finishing the practice groups for baseball and softball, which will begin June 15<sup>th</sup>. The Rec Center saw steady usage throughout the first month of reopening. We normally average 300-350 per day this time of the year, including kids, we are seeing around 175 a day without kids. Members have done a tremendous job wiping down machines before and after use. We opened up our locker rooms June 1<sup>st</sup>. Adam and Thomas have been extremely busy with clients. Aquatics Club will be starting their practices back up on June 8<sup>th</sup>. We will not be doing any senior programs until the JVCC starts back up.

Steve Roth reviewed the Parks and Forestry Report. Projects we are working on or have completed are: Turned on water to all restrooms, shelters and irrigation systems; Working at the pool making repairs, got it up running for the season; Trimmed the trees; Fertilized Outdoor Pool, Hitchcock Park, Pioneer Park and downtown areas; Fixed vandalism that happened at Camp Arroya, someone kicked in doors and broke some windows on a few of the buildings, someone spray painted graffiti on the band shell, someone started a fire in the Northridge

restroom building; Put out the buoys on the lake; Moved the fishing piers out for the summer; Hiring seasonal staff; Lots of mowing done by fulltime staff before the seasonal could start for the summer; Picked up tree piles around the lake; Planting flowers in the flower gardens in Hitchcock, downtown and other areas; Irrigation repairs; Contractor started on the dirt work for the tennis shed that Tennis Association is building between the two court complexes; Starting to spray "Total Kill" on trails, fence lines, sidewalks and other areas for weed control.

Jeremy Nielsen reviewed the Sports Complex Report. Projects being worked on:

#### *Cadwell*

- Continue mowing
- Turned on irrigation, 5 or 6 breaks currently working on
- Go through all irrigation heads
- Put up sun shades
- Spray fields and fence lines
- Slow pitch softball has started. Wednesday and Thursday nights
- Lowell rang Tournament June 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>. Harve's Tournament June 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>
- Mitchell Baseball has all teams practicing. First game is June 7<sup>th</sup>
- Park and Rec starts June 15<sup>th</sup>
- Concessions at softball are going well
- Clean bathrooms daily

#### *Soccer Complex*

- Continue mowing
- MSA has started practicing
- Put up new soccer sign at entrance
- Fields that will be used got painted
- A lot of heads to go through that are plugged
- Clean bathrooms daily

#### *Parks*

- Continue mowing
- Drag ball fields twice a week
- Cleaning bathrooms daily
- Trim trees

Director Powell reviewed the monthly Department Report.

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

-

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

- Friends of Firesteel Meeting
- Park Board Meeting
- City Council Meetings
- MACPD meeting
- Sports and Events Authority meeting
- Weekly and Monthly staff meetings
- Weekly Department Head management meetings

- R8 HAB conference call
- Meeting with Kibbee Park neighbor regarding trees
- Special Parks Board Meeting
- Met with Public Works regarding tree removal for storm sewer project

### ***Project Outcomes***

- Lake Mitchell Forestry Plan approved by Board
- POS system installed at Cadwell Concessions
- Solutions for Ice Arena roof leaks (approved)
- COVID reopening plan submitted to Board
- West Nile Grant Submitted
- Bust Contract approved by Board

### ***Current Projects***

- Ice Arena Roof
- Homebase staff schedule training
- Lake restoration project
- Lake Mitchell Public use plan
- Day Camp Volleyball Court Installation
- Skate Park Upgrade
- Boat Docks
- Budget adjustments for COVID 19 closures
- 2021 Capital Improvement projects and budget
- Meeting with Shive-Hattery regarding boat dock design quote

### ***Upcoming Special Events and Meetings***

- Parks Board meeting
- Friends of Firesteel meeting
- MACPD meeting
- City Council Meetings
- Monthly SEAC meetings
- Monthly Trail Committee Meeting
- Monthly Region 8 HAB's conference call
- Meeting with Ducks Unlimited regarding NAWCA Grant

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

- Sports Complex Crew Leader Position open (closes June 16<sup>th</sup>)
- Outdoor Pool Opening June 8<sup>th</sup> with COVID 19 protocol
- Programs start June 15<sup>th</sup> with COVID 19 protocol

### ***Public Requests***

- Request for ADA railing at Cadwell Stadium

Director Powell informed the Board he had received a call from a concerned citizen regarding kids swimming at the North Ohlman public access area. The citizen is worried that kids may go out to far and get hit by watercraft and asked if buoys could be placed. Powell noted there are currently 3 dedicated beaches around the lake with buoys and access areas are not considered a public beach. Board member Jerky said he has heard from several individuals that kids swim beyond the shallow area making it hard for watercraft to see them. Board President Johnson

inquired if it is a public access area does the Board need to vote. After a lengthy discussion, President Johnson opened the floor up for a motion. No motion was made by any board member; therefore, the request dies for lack of a motion.

Director Powell gave a Water Quality update.

There being no further business the Board adjourned at 7:14 p.m., noting Thursday, July 9, 2020 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.