

MINUTES OF PARK BOARD MEETING 9/20/2023

Date and time: 09/20/23 05:30 pm
Present: Kathie Ratliff, Parks and Rec Director Clay Caswell, Council Liaison Bob Washington, Shane Clines, Larry Doyle, Rick Shiverdecker, Robert Wilson, Michael Shindler, Director of Administration Courtney Doyle, Mayor Steve Myers
Absent: Brenna Gough, Wayne Bill, Cecil Brandt, Jerra Hedges
Location: Legends Rec-Plex
Projects/Tags: park board

DISCUSSION

1. CALL TO ORDER.

The meeting was called to order at 5:31.

Roll call was noted with an introduction of all visitors, staff, leadership, and board members.

2. ELECTION OF PARK BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Decision Parks & Rec Director Clay Caswell stated that nominations for chairman were open. Mr. Clines was nominated by Mr. Wilson. With no other nominations taking place, Director Caswell called for a vote. Nomination carried with five members voting in favor, four members absent (Bill, Brandt, Gough, and Hedges).

3. COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Listed on agenda)

- a. New Council Liaison – Bobby Washington
- b. Introduction of new Park Board members; Jerra Hedges, Cecil Brandt, and Mike Shindler

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. YMCA Board and Park Board Discussion

Interim Director of Administration Doyle expressed gratitude for our shared vision for our constituents, which includes the city's commitment to serving the Y in that region. She expressed gratitude for the fact that we are all striving towards similar goals of collaboration in things we can achieve together, and acknowledged that it has been through conversation and honest/open dialogue that progress has been made.

Mayor Myers said we are here to communicate and collaborate on shared tasks. We promised our community a pool, but we haven't delivered. We are no longer engaging in ugly discussions. We are here to work together and bring beneficial programs to the city. Community leaders have shown support and we are here tonight to improve our community and mend fences.

Sarah McDaniel, CEO of the YMCA, has been with the organization for many years and saw a significant a disconnect. She stated, "I believe the Y and Rec-Plex have a good leadership connection. But I agree; we have a new team and believe it's time to move ahead,"

Short discussion followed regarding direction on collaboration of programs, marketing, ideas, and procedures.

Lastly, all agreed that with new leadership for both entities, moving forward with the concept of "We" rather than "us" vs. "them," and all of us working together, will only benefit our taxpayers and the community at large enormously.

YMCA Leadership and Staff left at 5:50 p.m.

b. Upcoming Programs

Director Caswell shared an update on upcoming programs from the month of October through December.

Councilman Washington inquired whether flyers were sent to the school. Director Caswell stated that they were previously shared on a regular basis, but the school changed their policy, which was an additional cost. So the Rec-Plex had opted out at the time.

c. Other Business

Director Caswell stated that there is higher revenue than the previous year and they intend to expand fitness and class offerings. Facility rentals are increasing, and a substantial number of memberships (\$71,000) are being sold. Whitetails Unlimited was a recent guest to the banquet area, which is routinely booked.

Interim Director Doyle commended the park's collaboration with colleges and proposed that costs be reconsidered to ensure competitiveness. She also addressed persons without a home who are visiting the park. She encouraged a united front of compassion to guarantee that the park is accessible to all, however, lawless recreation area visitors will be dealt with accordingly to which Director Caswell agreed.

Following that, a brief discussion of golf course revenue and tournaments followed.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Splash Pad Fence Discussion and Traffic Study Results

The Park Board discussed the possibility of installing a fence around 2nd Street as a barrier to the park as some Councilmembers have reviewed citizens concerns to the area. A traffic study was completed in 2022, and the results are open to interpretation as to whether this is "too much" traffic or "not much at all." Director Caswell submitted the traffic study for review.

The Park Board then discussed various options, including stop signs, flashing lights, natural barriers, fencing, and using benches on the back side of the splashpad. They also took under consideration all the other parks and their proximity to the road.

Decision Rick Shiverdecker made a Motion to which Robert Wilson Seconded for recommendation of benches to be added to the area between the splashpad and 2nd Street.

7. ADJOURN

Decision At 6:30 p.m., Motion was made by Rick Shiverdecker and Seconded by Robert Wilson to adjourn.

8. GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:

Councilwoman Lauren Nelson
Sarah McDaniel YMCA CEO
Melissa Siegel YMCA Director
Kent Henderson YMCA Special Olympics coach
Curt Warfield YMCA Board President
Sheila Bastian Board Member
Marsha Miller Board Member
Cathy Nielsen Board Member
Laura Berg
Angie *