

Recreation Commission Minutes

December 2, 2024 7:30pm

Members Present: Boulware, Brubaker, Hanna, Ganim, Gawlik and Lazaridis

Members Absent: Briggs

Also Present: Mayor Kingston, Rachele Engle, Jamie Mewhinney, Rhonda Miko, Luis Pena, and Carolyn Jatsek

Minutes: Approval of October 28, 2024 Minutes, Motioned by Ganim, seconded by Boulware

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Kingston thanked everyone who helped with Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting. The event went great, and it was amazing how many people showed up for the event given the weather. There were over 400 cookies and cups of hot cocoa and they all went. The timing of the event got moved up slightly due to the choirs not singing as much with the cold weather, in return the fireworks went off a little early. It was a great way to start off the season. On December 23rd the Community Center will be hosting Breakfast with Santa in the morning, and that afternoon, there will be a dedication of a tree and plaque at Blossom Hill honoring Brian Stucky and his 40 years of coaching soccer.

Council Report:

City Councilman Ganim echoed the Mayor's comments about the Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting.

Director's Report:

Director Engle highlighted some of the upcoming Holiday events including the Christmas Movie Night at the Community Center on December 14th, Santa's Calling on December 17th and 18th, Breakfast with Santa on December 23rd with seating's at 9am and 11am, and the annual Gingerbread House Contest with voting on the 23rd and 24th. The Community Center will have shorted hours of 5:30am-noon on both Christmas and New Year's Eves, and will be closed on Christmas and New Year's Days. Everything was wonderful at the parade and thank you to all the people who put hard work into the parade, and decorating.

Athletic Area Report:

Athletic Coordinator Mewhinney reported that youth basketball has been up and practicing for a few weeks, and games will begin this Saturday. There are about 265 kids participating which is very close to last season. Men's Basketball League is currently open for registration through December 22nd. This year there is an offering for a 40+ division, open division and 60+ division. Games will be held on Sunday evenings beginning in January.

Aquatic Area Report:

Athletic Coordinator reported that the High School Swim Team is practicing Monday through Friday afterschool. There is a home swim meet this Friday so the Natatorium and Spa will be closing at 3:30pm. The next session of Learn to swim will begin on Saturdays in January, more details can be found online. We will be hosting a couple Lifeguard Training Classes at the end of the month over winter break.

Fitness Area Report:

Fitness Coordinator Miko stated 2024 was a fast year. All the new cardio equipment has been well received and people are continuing to use the fitness area. The part-time staff are doing a great job. Miko is making a few updates and tweaks for the January fitness schedule.

CVYO Report:

There is no CVYO report this month.

Old Business:

After the City Council Budget meeting, the finance committee brought the Community Center rates back to Director Engle to revisit the 2025 membership rates that were presented to Council as recommended by Commission. The City Budget book was not released until after the Commission had their discussions about the budget and proposed rates. Finance Director Starosta did a great job of putting together this budget book that is a better look at the City's Budget. The Mayor hit a few high level points regarding the budget. Revenue for the City in 2024 is the same as it was in 2020. It is projected to increase in the next few years. The City is currently making Debt Service Payments on 2 large Recreation Projects (Aquatic Expansion and Field House), in addition to other City projects.

No one wants a rate increase, but there has not been one in 5 years. The cost to operate the facilities has gone up. It is shocking to see how much it costs to pay seasonal help at the Community Center. The seasonal payroll is over \$600,000. This was the first year we were fully staffed all summer. We want to make sure we can budget to continue to have the summer fully staffed and fully operational all summer. The 2025 estimated cost for the Community Center to be open is \$3000 per day. Revenue is increasing in some areas of recreation, like the field house and concessions. We need the pricing of membership in line with expenses. Director Engle shared the updated rates that City Council is looking to approve at their meeting tomorrow evening so that membership can go for sale next week.

New Business:

No new business.

Public Comments:

No Public Comments

Adjournment: Motioned by Ganim, seconded by Lazaridis at 7:54pm