



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Lower Level Council Chambers
Wednesday, September 13, 2023
6:00 PM

AGENDA

ROLL CALL

AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Approve** Meeting Minutes - July 12, 2023
2. **Receive & File** Director's Report - July 2023
3. **Receive & File** Director's Report - August 2023
4. Baseball/Softball 2024 - T-ball/Blastball
5. Baseball/Softball 2024 - Using all facilities
6. Baseball/Softball 2024 - Games after July 4th
7. Aquatic Center - Hours of Operation
8. Commission Member Comments
9. Set Next Meeting Date

ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Matt Monahan, Jon Scherbring, Sarah Goldsmith, Nathan Huebner
City Staff present – Adam Huehnergath & Sandy Oberbroeckling

ABSENT

Jason Lang and Megan Scherrman

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Goldsmith asked for review and approval of the agenda. Motion was made by Monahan, seconded by Huebner.

Voting Yea: Monahan, Scherbring, Goldsmith, Huebner

Motion Carried

ORAL COMMENTS - None

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Approve Meeting Agenda – July 12, 2023

Goldsmith asked for comments or changes and there were none. Motion made by Monahan, seconded by Huebner.

Voting Yea: Scherbring, Monahan, Huebner, Goldsmith

Motion carried

2. Approve Meeting Minutes - May 17, 2023

Goldsmith asked for comments or changes and there were none. Motion made by Monahan, Seconded by Huebner.

Voting Yea: Scherbring, Monahan, Huebner, Goldsmith

Motion carried

3. Receive & File Director's Reports - May & June 2023

Motion made by Monahan to receive and file the May & June 2023 Director's Reports, seconded by Huebner.

Voting Yea: Scherbring, Monahan, Huebner, Goldsmith

4. T-Ball, Baseball, & Softball Updates

The season went well with no rain outs. The field conditions have been good. We need to review T-ball. Numerous parents have stated that 3 year-olds are too young for this league. The coaches are babysitters practically and it's a safety issue. We need to make the minimum age four years of age. We could possibly have a tiered program that one level is coach-pitch and one level is off the tee. As for the age, do we want to make it as of January 1st or leave it as is, May 1st? We may vote on this issue at our next meeting.

The revenue we made from the Field of Dreams tournaments is being used to upgrade our facilities. We would like to upgrade the dugout on Field 1 at Westside next. Most people enjoy playing at Westside. We were able to move D baseball and softball to Westside this year.

Goldsmith is requesting that we add playground equipment near the fields at Westside so younger siblings can play there while the older kids are playing. Huehnergath will check into this.

There is some money set aside for concessions at Westside. We need to decide where would be a good area.

It was asked if anyone knew of anyone wanting to put together an association for baseball or softball. No one was aware of anyone.

5. Pool Revenue - Parties, Theme Nights/Days, Evening Water Aerobics

The new features are a nice improvement to the pool. Huehnergath has been brainstorming ways to increase pool revenue. Monticello has theme days. For example, Tween Night for ages 10-16 years of age, Hawaiian Day, etc. Maybe even have a DJ, giveaways, etc.

Lifeguards don't really like the evening meal break. Many pools do adult swim at 7:00 pm. Would we want to do water aerobics at this time? Or possibly do water aerobics at noon? It was asked what our numbers were for adult swim at 5:00. The number that usually attend is around 10 people. Lifeguards do like the 10 minute break.

We currently offer pool parties on Saturday and Sunday nights from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Do we want to allow these on weeknights or even Friday nights? The revenue is \$350.00 per party. Goldsmith asked about birthday parties from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. Earlville offers this service for \$175.00 per party with 2 guards. We would have to charge more because we have a larger pool and would need more guards. Scherbring also mentioned having birthday parties on the upper deck behind the diving board. All Saturday nights in July are currently booked for pool parties.

Another idea brought up is to put up a 4 square in the grassy area where the sand used to be. Or possibly a grid with a volleyball. There is one at Camp Little Cloud that would be a good attraction.

6. Commission Member Comments

The pool will be open until August 20th.

7. Set Next Meeting Date for Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm on a motion by Monahan, seconded by Scherbring.

Voting yea: Scherbring, Goldsmith, Monahan, Huebner

Motion Carried

Sandy Oberbroeckling

July 12, 2023

Date

Memorandum

TO: City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Adam Huehnergath, Parks and Recreation Manager
RE: Monthly Directors Report June 2023
CC: Mick Michel, City Administrator
Date: July 17, 2023

Saturday Soccer:

I have been busy setting up our fall soccer season. The teams will be finalized this Friday and most teams will start practicing after August 7th. First “soccer Saturday” will be August 19th. This year we have seen a good uptick in registrations and we will have over 500 participants playing with Dyersville on the front of the jersey. That is a 7% increase YOY. With 39 teams from Kindergarten to Middle School it has been a challenge at times to find enough volunteer coaches, but many parents have stepped up. I did use a group of Beckman soccer players to coach a 5th/6th grade team this year and am excited to see how that progresses.

Flag Football:

I just had a meeting with the representatives from Monticello, Anamosa and Cascade to set up the NFL Flag Football league that we have joined this fall. We will compete in the 3rd/4th grade division and will play a six game schedule. The games will be played in the outfield of the baseball diamonds at Westside park so we can utilize the lights on Mondays. Our initial season will feature 4 teams. I talked to Coach Mather at Beckman Catholic to maybe borrow his football players to help coach. I understand that is how it might have been a long time ago when Dyersville had flag football and I think both groups of kids would enjoy it.

Tennis/Basketball Courts:

The surface of the tennis courts by the swimming pool along with the basketball court at Westside Park are getting close to their expected life and are in need of repair. In addition, the surface area of the tennis courts has settled and when resurfacing there needs to be a solution to raise the level. Currently, there are large gaps between the fence and the surface to let balls leave the facility. Those courts still see a decent amount of tennis players, but with the growing popularity of pickleball those courts see a lot of traffic. City staff will work on different solutions.

Baseball/Softball:

Our Prairie League schedule ended last week. With the dry spell we didn’t have any rainouts all year. The two changes of shortening the C & D seasons and playing more games against local teams was enthusiastically received. The decision to move B division to Candy Cane worked and after the improvements to Westside, it was nice to use those fields for league games again. With opening up the schedule and good organization, all teams had places to play and practice without

any problems. Special thanks to the summer help Connor Grover and Ben Westhoff on having all seven diamonds ready to go every day.

Item 2.

Memorandum

TO: City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Adam Huehnergath, Parks and Recreation Manager
RE: Monthly Directors Report July 2023
CC: Mick Michel, City Administrator
Date: August 21, 2023

Field of Dreams Tournaments:

The hosting of the Field of Dreams youth tournaments ended July 30th after 10 weeks of weekend action. Every weekend we hosted tournaments with 14-64 teams on the Dyersville diamonds. Three of the weekends included 13/14 year olds and some of those games were played at Jenk Field, Beckman HS and surrounding communities. The summer staff and myself groomed diamonds over 180 times and hosted approximately 650 games. The FoD staff was more organized this year and had some great interns that helped us out with field maintenance. The partnership is working great. Special thanks to Connor Grover for the last two years of getting up at 530am on the weekends and keeping our parks/fields immaculate. He will be missed next summer.

Aquatic Center:

The Aquatic Center last day was Sunday, August 13 and ended with our annual Doggy Dip with pets allowed to enjoy the pool. Overall, the pool season was a success. The two new managers (Lainey Link and Lexi Kramer) did a great job navigating lifeguarding and managing duties. They are both planning to come back next summer and have some good ideas for improvement. I will take their recommendations and some of mine to the Park and Recreation Commission to discuss changes for 2024. Adult swim times and requirements will be looked over. Also, our goal is to increase attendance next year. Different events, themes and programs will be looked at. Another special thanks to the other Certified Pool Operator Terry Recker who was the main pool technician. The pool was never closed for chemical imbalance or maintenance issues.

Soccer Saturday:

Saturday, August 19th started the annual tradition of "Soccer Saturday." Over 900 kids from around the area will play at Westside Park this year. Our 7 fields will host 40 matches each Saturday. The regular season lasts 6 weeks with playoffs scheduled for September 30th and October 7th. Thanks to Russ Wolfe who organizes all of the referees and keeps control of the action every Saturday. There is a slight shortage on referees this fall since some of our younger referees have moved on. Next spring there will be a push to capture some younger referees. Doing a little research, this year is the 37th edition of the Dyersville Soccer Program.

BLASTBALL!

Item 4.



What is it?

BLASTBALL is a developmental game invented and marked by the ATEC Athletic Training Company in the United States. It is a very simple concept utilizing the skills of baseball in a fun, fast-paced activity for young players. With only one base and a foam bat and ball, it is safer and less complex than T-ball. Note: We supply the bat and ball. Personal bats are *not* allowed to be used in Blastball.

This game is an exceptional introduction to baseball for a number of reasons:

- **It is fun, and fast paced with lots of chances to bat in a short time-span**
- **It is easy to play, players have a instant success**
- **No glove or special equipment is needed by the player**
- **It runs within a flexible time-frame**
- **It doesn't cost a great deal to participate**
- **It allows good and efficient use of facilities (we play 3 or 4 mini-games at a time on a diamond)**

BLASTBALL offers the opportunity to teach all five basic fundamentals of baseball---hitting, throwing, catching, running and fielding. It is also a ton of fun with fast, continuous action and simple rules.

BLASTBALL: The game

Basically the game consists of **two teams of 5-7 players each with the teams alternately batting and playing the field** – just like T-ball/Baseball. (with only 7 players max. Per side, there is minimal waiting time to bat and more opportunity to field the ball when in field.) There is only one base –

first. A cone is used to designate a “left foul” line --- usually making a narrower field then would be defined by third base. The bat & ball are foam.

Each batter hits off a batting tee when the coach says “play ball” and then runs to the base (at first) which “HONKS” when stomped on. When the ball is stopped by a fielder, he/she holds it up and yells “BLAST” (no need to try and make any plays, but getting the fielder to throw into the catcher after “BLAST” should be encouraged.

The object is for the runner to “HONK” before the fielder “BLASTS” and vice versa (regardless, no runner stays on base and no runners go into home.

There is no scorekeeping in Blast ball. In numerous tests it has been proven that kids get the most enjoyment out of jumping on the base. (Note: there is a sweet spot so a good first practice/game warm-up exercise would be running and jumping on first.) Neither glove nor helmet needed.

How it works:

- **Two teams:** ½ (squad) your team stays with your tee while the ½ of your team goes to the other teams tee. A “mini-game” is played at each tee as per prior agreement (e.g.2 or 3 times through the batting order of each side, 10/15 minutes etc.) until finished where upon **one** team’s two squads then have to switch playing fields so as to play the second ½ of the other team. After the 2nd mini-game finish back at your tee for a team practice/wind-up!
- Due to 7 player/team split your team up as follows—3 batting, 4 fielding for 10 minutes then switch for another 10 mins. Then have a mini game with the other team on diamond.
- There is no set time the session has to end. We encourage you to play as long as your players want to continue (within reason) . You continue play and/or practice as long as several players –team(s) – have to leave. Adjust the rotating to suit weather, interest, etc. and please let us know what works the best! **HAVE FUN!!!**



DFAC Daily Count Log Ave 2023

		5/29-6/4			6/5-6/11			6/12-6/18			6/19-6/25			6/26-7/2			7/3-7/9			7/10-7/16			7/17-7/23			7/24-7/30			7/31-8/5		
		On Deck	In Pool	Totals	On Deck	In Pool	Totals	On Deck	In Pool	Totals	On Deck	In Pool	Totals	On Deck	In Pool	Totals	On Deck	In Pool	Totals	On Deck	In Pool	Totals	On Deck	In Pool	Totals	On Deck	In Pool	Totals	On Deck	In Pool	Totals
Adult Swim Morning									0			8			9			10			10			12				12			11
Adult Swim Afternoon			6	6		6	6		0			8			5			8			8			7			11			6	
	1:00	22	32	54	8	30	38	9	9	18	16	35	51	11	15	26	8	13	21	12	24	36	5	20	25	10	28	38	4	15	19
	1:30	14	75	89	9	48	57	12	49	61	18	77	105	7	35	42	11	38	49	13	38	51	12	47	59	10	51	61	7	31	38
	2:00	31	91	122	21	57	78	24	46	68	23	88	111	16	49	65	17	52	69	15	40	55	21	58	79	16	65	81	12	38	50
	2:30	41	100	141	15	68	83	18	82	100	28	107	135	16	52	68	17	54	71	16	51	66	20	68	88	20	72	92	15	40	55
	3:00	48	97	145	24	58	82	31	54	85	32	95	127	14	47	61	22	41	63	13	44	47	27	58	85	16	66	82	15	37	52
	3:30	32	103	135	19	57	76	18	62	80	25	94	119	11	48	59	11	45	56	12	36	48	15	64	79	20	62	82	12	43	55
	4:00	34	71	105	18	41	59	19	33	52	25	63	88	11	34	45	12	31	43	10	29	39	15	36	51	18	39	57	9	30	39
	4:30	23	75	98	8	38	46	11	28	39	22	47	69	10	23	33	10	25	35	6	29	35	8	35	43	14	35	49	5	20	25
	5:00																														
	Adult Even	5:30		5	5		5	5		3			8						1	1		6						6			8
	6:30	4	33	37	3	25	28	4	17	21	15	32	47				3	10	13	4	16	20				5	20	25	2	12	14
	7:00	6	49	55	5	32	37	4	20	24	12	50	62				3	10	13	3	17	20				4	31	35	3	18	21
	7:30	7	29	36	5	30	35	4	25	29	16	42	58					2	2	6	15	21				5	26	31	3	18	21