
AGENDA

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. Approve** Meeting Minutes - December 13, 2023
- 2. Receive & File** Director's Report - December 2023
- 3.** Aquatic Center Hours
- 4.** Fitness Connection
- 5.** Soccer Girls League
- 6.** Commission Member Comments
- 7.** Set Next Meeting Date

ADJOURNMENT



PARKS & RECREATION

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

MINUTES

ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order by Sarah Goldsmith at 6:00 pm.

PRESENT

Jason Lang, Jon Scherbring, Nathan Huebner, Sarah Goldsmith, Casey Frye

ABSENT

Megan Scherrman, Matt Monahan

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Voting Yea: Lang, Scherbring, Huebner, Goldsmith, Frye

Motion Carried

AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Approve** Meeting Minutes - October 11, 2023

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

Voting Yea: Lang, Scherbring, Huebner, Goldsmith, Frye

Motion Carried

2. **Receive & File** Director's Report - October 2023

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

Voting Yea: Lang, Scherbring, Huebner, Goldsmith, Frye

Motion Carried

3. **Receive & File** Director's Report - November 2023

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

Voting Yea: Lang, Scherbring, Huebner, Goldsmith, Frye

Motion Carried

4. Soccer 2024 - All Female League

Huehnergath sent a survey monkey to get feedback on instituting an all-girls league. Some of the coaches from other towns are disappointed that some of the girls get pushed aside and then end up quitting prematurely. Currently, there are more girls than guys on the 7th & 8th grade in Dyersville; however, other towns tend to lose the girls. Higher grades don't see as many girls playing forward. Huehnergath reached out to the other communities and they seem willing to give it a shot. He would like have 6th - 8th grade girls be involved. This first season he plans to have 4 games on a weekday (Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday) and play 9 on 9 and use smaller fields. Girls would be allowed to enroll in girls, co-ed or both. It was questioned whether or not the boys would have their own league as well. It was decided that we would experiment with the girls first and go from there. We would start the league mid-August and play at 6 pm and 7:30 pm. Usually religion classes don't start until September, so this shouldn't interfere. Goldsmith would like this to be presented again on the next agenda to revisit. Huehnergath will also be sending them results from the survey monkey.

5. Aquatic Center Hours of Operation

Huehnergath is looking at changing the pool hours. Closing at 5 pm and reopening at 6:30 pm is not efficient. We have a very slim crowd at night to swim for this short time and we sell limited concessions during this time. Many of the lifeguards don't drive so they are required to punch out and sit and wait until they can punch back in. We would need to see how swimming lessons would be affected by this. Huehnergath would like the pool to stay open until 7:00 pm without the break from 5 pm - 6:30 pm. He also mentioned having water aerobics at night. Also, maybe doing the swimming lessons at 7 pm. Goldsmith would like this item be revisited at the next meeting.

6. National Fitness Campaign

Goldsmith sent the information on the National Fitness Campaign, a public-private wellness partnership to build fitness courts, to some other athletic individuals. They all thought it would be a great option. The City Administrator and Mayor are also on board with the idea. Huehnergath was looking at placing it in the area where the current Kindergarten soccer fields are located. We need a place that has parking and is ADA compliant. Huehnergath needs a committee to get this going. The approximate cost is \$175,000. We could reach out to other health-minded entities for funds (i.e. hospitals). Huehnergath would like to get the cost down to about \$50,000. We will also look for grants to help support this.

Scherbring stated that some of our residents think our parks are outdated. This may be a good time to update our current items and add this at the same time. Huehnergath thinks this could be a good selling point for people looking to move to our community. He has a meeting set for January 3, 2024 to meet with some instructors and individuals involved in programs to keep people active. There is currently one of these fitness courts in Clinton and one will be installed in Emmetsburg this summer. Goldsmith would like this added to the next agenda. She will do some research. This town could benefit from something more fitness based.

7. Commission Member Comments

Goldsmith announced that they had very good feedback regarding their inaugural Run Run Rudolph event. They have already booked it for next year on December 7th. It will be on the first Saturday of December every year. She would like members from the Parks & Recreation

Commission to volunteer to help with the parade. She would also like to see the Parks & Recreation Commission to pay part of the fee for the equipment for the race. This year they were given a discount and it cost around \$800. They had 110 runners this year.

Scherbring brought up that the playground equipment needs to be updated to be accessible to kids with autism. He had been contacted by a city resident regarding this.

8. Set Next Meeting Date for Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 P.M. on a motion made by Scherbring, seconded by Frye.

Voting Yea: Lang, Scherbring, Huebner, Goldsmith, Frye

Motion Carried

_____	<u>December 13, 2023</u>
Sandy Oberbroeckling	Date

Memorandum

TO: City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Adam Huehnergath, Parks and Recreation Manager
RE: Monthly Directors Report December 2023
CC: Mick Michel, City Administrator
Date: January 15, 2024

Soccer Program:

Using results from a coach's survey and listening to ideas from citizens over the years, I think the soccer program will offer a female only group. It will be separate from the co-ed Saturday schedule and be a shorter season played during the week in the evening for girls in grades 6 - 8. Participants can play in either league or both. This will be an introductory league so adjustments and continuation for following years will be decided from feedback.

Flag Football:

With the popularity of the new NFL Flag League that started last fall for 3rd/4th grade students, we have decided to continue and expand that program. The initial plan in 2023 was to be in a league with other towns that had an existing league, but after starting practice the coaches felt we could host our own league. We are now planning to add a 1st/2nd grade division that will be played in the outfield of the Candy Cane diamonds. There was thought to try a 5th/6th grade division but with the popularity of our soccer program and the Little Blazers tackle football league, one more athletic program during the fall might be too much.

Aquatic Center:

I recently sent out a survey to all registered participants in our system and included a link on the Park/Rec Facebook site. We have received over 430 responses. A lot of the responses echoed my thoughts on operating times and daily schedules but there was great feedback that called attention to some ideas for generating more interest. Less than 20% of the patrons purchased a season pass and that was probably based on the fact that over 55% of our attendants went four times or less in 2023. That tells me that people go to the pool but not very often. I will be working with the Park and Rec Commission and the pool managers on a plan to adjust the schedule for the changing demographics and adding programs/events to encourage better attendance. I will start to recruit and hire our summer staff in the next month. A larger pool of lifeguards/workers can give us more flexibility for the changes.

Pool Hours Examination

I am requesting an examination of the operating hours of the Dyersville Aquatic Center for the 2024 season. For years past the DAC has had the following hours:

- AM Adult Swim 6-7:30am
- Swim Lessons 9am-12:50am (7 weeks) & 5-7:20pm (2 weeks)
- AFT Adult Swim 12pm-12:50pm
- Open Swim 1-5pm
- PM Adult Swim 5:30-6:15pm
- Open Swim 6:30-8pm

Reasons for examination:

- Evening attendance was 1/3 of the afternoon attendance even on the hottest days. Most of the patrons were passholders or people reentering from earlier. I think it was a pain point for families w/o passes to pay entrance fee for only 90 minutes of free swim. In the same vein, families that couldn't get there before 3pm didn't see a good value since the pool closed at 5pm.
- The average attendance for the evening adult swim was 4-7. The early AM Adult swim was double that and the noon hour open swim was also higher. We started water aerobics in 2022 for the AM swim and that has been successful. People have asked for EVE aerobics but the attendance doesn't warrant it. Could that program work if it was later?
- A percentage of the DAC lifeguards are still 15 and don't have a drivers license. When the pool closes at 5pm and they still work again at 6:30 it causes issues. Some kids have a hard time finding a ride back and/or they just sit at the pool unpaid. With the difficulty of hiring, scheduling and retaining lifeguards, this is a pain point that needs to be fixed.
- The receipts for the concession stand in the evening were usually minimal. Staffing was difficult since no workers had drivers licenses and a 90 minute shift wasn't attractive. There might be room for higher late afternoon/early evening concession receipts.

TOWN	Open swim hours	TOWN	Open swim hours
Guttenberg	1-5pm 6-8pm	Manchester	1-5pm 6-8pm
Monticello	12-7pm	Oelwein	12-6pm
Independence	12-6pm 6:30-8pm	Humbolt	1-7pm
Camanche	1-7pm	Dubuque	1-4:30pm 5-8pm
Decorah	1-8pm	Anamosa	1-5pm 6-8pm

Recommendation:

- Adult Swim 6-7:30am M-F
- Swim Lessons 9-10:45am (7 weeks) 6:30 & 7:30pm (3 weeks)
- Adult Swim 12-12:50pm
- Open Swim 1-7pm (2 10-minute breaks at 3 & 5) 1-6pm Sat/Sun
- PM Adult Swim 7-8pm M-F
- Parties 7-9pm any day of week
- Special late-night parties once a month