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## **AGENDA**

### **ROLL CALL**

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

- 1. Approve** Meeting Minutes - March 6, 2024
- 2. Receive & File** Director's Report - February 2024
- 3. Receive & File** Director's Report - March 2024
- 4.** Fitness Connection Update
- 5.** Soccer - Rules & Teams
- 6.** Aquatic Center Updates
- 7.** Track Meet Updates
- 8.** Commission Member Comments
- 9.** Set Next Meeting Date

### **ADJOURNMENT**



## PARKS & RECREATION

Lower Level Council Chambers  
 Wednesday, March 06, 2024  
 6:00 PM

### MINUTES

#### ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order by Megan Scherrman at 6:03 P.M.

#### PRESENT

Jason Lang, Megan Scherrman, Nathan Huebner, Sarah Goldsmith, Casey Frye, Matt Ungs

#### ABSENT

Jon Scherbring

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Voting Yea: Lang, Scherrman, Huebner, Goldsmith, Frye, Ungs

Motion Carried

#### AGENDA ITEMS

##### 1. **Approve** Meeting Minutes - January 17, 2024

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

Voting Yea: Lang, Scherrman, Huebner, Goldsmith, Frye, Ungs

Motion Carried

##### 2. **Receive & File** Director's Report - January 2024

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

Voting Yea: Lang, Scherrman, Huebner, Goldsmith, Frye, Ungs

Motion Carried

##### 2. **Fitness Connection**

The Fitness Connection is a group made up Sarah Goldsmith, Jon Scherbring, Ellyse Ungs, and Lauren Prier. This committee is a branch off the Parks and Recreation Commission and includes individuals who are interested in fitness in our community. When they first brought up the outside fitness area, they received negative feedback. The response is that we need to

update our parks. There was a consensus that we need an inclusive play area in our parks. This would allow all individuals the ability to play on this equipment. Goldsmith met with Jacque Rahe. Rahe is applying for grants to pay for some of the expense on this project. The group also discussed putting fitness stations around the trail at Westside Park. The fitness stations would include items such as: push ups, pull ups, sit ups, box jumps, etc. These items would be made out of steel so there would be less maintenance than if wood or some other material were to be used. Additionally, trails would connect to the inclusive play area and be located around the play area. Rahe also met with Jeff Jacque on this project and he had very positive feedback on it. The location chosen was a good area. It is close enough to the ball diamonds, but far enough away from the street so kids don't venture into the street. The project will vary depending upon the size and different items included in the playground. A large playground would cost upwards of \$200,000. It was mentioned that a campaign may be the best avenue to raise funds for this project. The aspect of flooding was also brought up. It seems that the play area would be able to withstand any flooding issues. Huehnergath was instructed to speak with the city administrator and then communicate with Goldsmith by Friday to see if this can be presented at the next City Council meeting.

### 3. Pool Updates

Rahe had suggested to Goldsmith that we need a splash pad. As a commission we have indicated "no" in the past. However, we want people to stay in our community. It was suggested to put the splash pad near the new inclusive park. Another option would be to have the splash pad in the grassy area at the pool. It was divided as to whether this would be included in the pool area or it would be a separate area that would be free to play at. In the past, we have been under the idea that most communities that have a pool do not have a splash pad and vice versa. Scherrman would like it kept separate from the pool. If it was kept separate from the pool area, there is an outside bathroom and the attendees could also access the concession stand from the side window. Ungs likes the idea of a splash pad located at Westside Park. Westside Park is located centrally in our community. Some commission members worry that the splash pad will take away from our pool. Scherrman thinks it depends on the age of your kids. Older kids would rather be in a pool than a splash pad.

For this year, the commission is asking for shade material and maybe bag games or other games to be placed in the grassy area at the pool. We want to make it fun to be at the pool.

### 4. Baseball & Softball Registrations

Huehnergath passed out the numbers from this year versus last year. 2nd grade is much smaller than last year. 7th/8th grade division is also smaller due to a tiny class. Most feedback on the T-ball is that dividing the pre-K and Kindergarten into two separate groups was a good decision. Huehnergath also mentioned having new rules for T-ball put on the website to show this change.

### 5. Commercial Club ball field improvements

The safety fences have just finished being installed. The Public Works Director will be contacting someone this week to install a sidewalk. Huehnergath is also hoping the batting cage gets installed soon. Commission members asked about getting netting over the stands to avoid foul balls injuring anyone. Westside Park also needs safety nets. Or, maybe shades instead of nets, since this would offer protection and shade all at the same time. We may want to contact FarmTek to see if they would donate a shade or Out Run the Rays.

## 6. Aquatic Center employment

We have 11 applications for lifeguards. We also have 5 kids who have said they were coming back, but they have not yet applied. We are certainly short on lifeguards. The ideal number would be 20 lifeguards. It may help to put the new hours out there to help entice kids to apply. Huehnergath went to Beckman to try to get more kids to apply.

## 8. Commission Member Comments

The Track Meet is going to be on May 4th. Huehnergath had 80 kids last year and is hoping for 100 kids this year. Our meet is the same day as Monticello. The State Meet will be on June 4th in Marshalltown.

The Mayor mentioned he would like to construct a community garden. It would be located between the alley and railroad tracks (old soccer field) across from the church. Individuals could rent out a space and would be responsible if they wanted some type of fencing to keep animals out. Water would need to be brought in by the individual. The City would not supply it.

Goldsmith had someone mention having a Sports Equipment Swap Meet. Possibly drop off items from 5 pm - 6 pm and then have the meet from 6 pm - 8 pm. We will need to look into this.

We need to get umps prepared, possibly have a clinic. When teams have practice games, it would be a great time for umps to practice as well. In addition, coaches need to help keep the crowds in check. The umps should not have to deal with angry parents.

## 9. Set Next Meeting Date for Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.

### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M. on a motion made by Goldsmith, seconded by Unga.

Voting Yea: Lang, Scherrman, Huebner, Goldsmith, Frye, Unga

Motion Carried

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Sandy Oberbroeckling

March 6, 2024  
Date

Memorandum

TO: City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission  
From: Adam Huehnergath, Parks and Recreation Manager  
RE: Monthly Directors Report February 2024  
CC: Mick Michel, City Administrator  
Date: March 18, 2024

**Aquatic Center:**

The hiring process is winding down. The two assistant managers have been selected and we will be identifying the head guards soon. We have decided to have our lifeguard training indoors in Hopkinton like last year to give myself and city staff ample time to get the pool in order to open on May 25<sup>th</sup>. The lifeguard class is scheduled for April 28<sup>th</sup>. Under the advice of other aquatic directors and pool service companies we will begin to fill the pool earlier this year. This way we will use more natural ways to warm the pool water and stabilize the chemical balance.

**Community Garden:**

We are in the initial planning stages to design and use a community garden for this summer. The area identified is the city-owned property north of 1<sup>st</sup> Ave W between the alley and the railroad tracks. Our beginning idea is to have 20 or so plots roughly 15'x15' separated by a grass pathway. The plots can be "rented" for a small fee. We plan on forming a gardening committee for ideas and to govern. I will be at Iowa Park and Rec meetings next week and will search other communities for ideas and best practices.

**Baseball/Softball:**

The baseball/softball season starts in 5 weeks. The teams will be drafted and uniforms will be ordered this week. Due to the good weather so far and the decision not to add more lime, the fields will be ready to practice earlier this year than any I remember. We have a total of 20 less baseball players this summer due somewhat to small class sizes in 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades in Dyersville. Softball players have increased by 3 this year. Even with the lower totals, we will have one extra team in the Prairie League this summer. Scheduling is done by the Rec crew in Peosta and the first games are scheduled for the week of April 22<sup>nd</sup> running to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

I am on the planning committee to try and have an end-of-season tournament for all of the Prairie League teams July 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. It will be an initial test to combat the deterioration of the local Prairie League tournaments. The tournament will be for all softball and C and D league baseball. Many of these games will be held in Dyersville since we have the field availability. We hope to have a better plan as the season progresses.

Memorandum

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

**Aquatic Center:**

We have hired our two new Assistant Managers, three Head Lifeguards and twelve additional life guards for the 2024 season. The number of lifeguards is the same as last year. We have a higher number of Facility Assistants this year which is great since that is the steppingstone to being a lifeguard in future years. I met with the two Assistant Managers last Sunday and finalized the swimming lesson schedule for this summer. The plan is to open registration for lessons May 7th for Dyersville residents only and May 9th for everyone. Our staff meeting is set for April 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.

We rebuilt one of the pumps and motors earlier this year but otherwise the pool is in good shape and ready to be put to use. The plan is to get the pool ready a couple weeks earlier this year to use natural means to help warm the pool water and give adequate time to balance the chemicals.

**Baseball/Softball fields:**

There are a few enhancements to our baseball/softball facilities happening in the next month. We are putting up a batting cage at Commercial Club Park between the two diamonds by the flagpole. In addition, there will be a new walkway from Aquatic Drive between the two diamonds to the bleachers. This can be used as a starting point to move more of the parking, especially during FoD baseball tournaments, to the two outfield areas. The small parking lot between the youth diamonds and Jenk Field becomes very congested especially the days with activity at the Oak Gardens and the Pavilion.

**Bocce Court:**

Eagle Scout Grant Demmer is finished with the bocce court. We are adding a concrete edge around the east, south and west side with a sidewalk from the parking lot. There will be a scoreboard and also a sign explaining the rules and about the Eagle Scout project added in the near future. My plan is to have a bocce league later this summer into fall.

**Baseball/Softball Prairie League:**

Next week starts the first games for the Prairie League. The seven city diamonds are prepped everyday for practice now and will be set up for games next week. According to our online practice schedule, the fields are use for over 50 hours for practice each week. We are scheduled to host over 70 Prairie League games on the diamonds over the 10 week schedule with most

visiting teams coming from surrounding towns. We have 20 more participants scattered across all ages and genders with the largest increase in T-Ball.

Item 3.

### **Tree Grant/Planting:**

The tree planting ceremony is set for Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at Candy Cane Park by the shelter. The \$5,000 grant from the One Million Trees Initiative by Alliant Energy and Trees Forever led us to purchase 26 trees that we will plant with community volunteers across our park system. About 2/3 of the trees will be situated in Candy Cane park around the playground area, bocce ball pit and between the diamonds. The rest will be planted around the diamonds and trails at Westside Park. The Dyersville Lion's Club will be on hand to assist but we would love additional volunteers from the community. We are hoping to use Beckman Catholic students during their Senior day also.