



Parks & Recreation Office
901 Montana Avenue
April 8, 2025
6:30 pm

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Gary Stevenson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Wendy Taavola called roll.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Cathy Sjoquist
Gary Stevenson
Bob Bosk
Anne Pfothenauer
Jay Bostwick
Roger Aho
John DeFiore

ABSENT

None.

STAFF PRESENT

Wendy Taavola, Director

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made to approve minutes of February 4, 2025, meeting by Stevenson, seconded by Bostwick.

Voting Yea: ALL

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

DCN Trails – Proposed Mountain Bike Skills Trail: Director Taavola informed the board that DCN Trails representative was not able to make the meeting, update was given by Bob Bosk. DCN Trails are not ready with plans for the proposed trail.

City Master Plan – Director Taavola went over the objectives set forth in the current City Master Plan for the department. A discussion followed regarding planning department projects going forward.

- Member DeFiore spoke to the board about improvement of the existing park assets before adding them to the workload, and projects that can begin immediately, such as tree removal.
- Member Stevenson mentioned playground safety inspections. Director Taavola will need to work toward certification in playground safety.

- Director Taavola stated that the second bridge in Van Cleve is set to be painted, and kid's kingdom linseed oil project started last summer will be completed this summer. Chair Sjoquist stated that DPW bought the linseed oil by 55-gallon drums in the past. The department will look into doing this again.
- Member DeFiore discussed kayak rentals in the harbor and revisiting the rental fee. The rentals are not widely known about, the department plans to move the kayaks near the new Pram Shack after completion, so they are closer to the harbormaster's office and more visible to the public. There has been past discussion regarding adding land mooring near the Pram Shack and moving the kayaks to this location makes more sense.
- Member DeFiore recommended that the board prioritize items into a 10-item list and work towards a proposed plan that illustrates the board's recommendations for the coming season.
- Member DeFiore also initiated a discussion regarding tree and stump removals that will enhance the view of the lake as an item for planning.
- Director Taavola informed the board that the split rail fence near the beach needs repair and the bike rack in the harbor should be rebuilt. Member Bosk mentioned the beach house roof is starting to curl. The MACC grant informational kiosks should also be purchased or built this season. The locations for the informational kiosks were discussed, the harbor, downtown near the Dew Drop, and near the entries to town were suggested by the board.
- Chair Sjoquist listed the items talked about and suggested reaching out to the ISD, Kiwanis and Lions Clubs to assist in building projects. Robert is working on a design for bike racks.
- The board concluded that the dead trees in the park are the top priority. Member Pfothenauer made a motion to recommend that the dead trees in the park should be prioritized in the department. Member Bostwick seconded the motion.

Voting Yea: ALL

MOTION CARRIED

Sports Park Pickleball Facility Use Agreement – Rich Beauvais of Gladstone Area Pickleball was unable to attend this meeting. Mr. Beauvais wanted feedback from the board on the use agreement. Director Taavola told the board that the use agreement is similar to the use agreement of the baseball and softball fields. The board reviewed the use agreement. Concerns regarding public use were brought up by several board members including open play times, the courts being locked and the rules during club play. A motion to table the Pickleball Facility Use Agreement until the next meeting was made by Sjoquist and seconded by Pfothenauer.

Voting Yea: ALL

MOTION CARRIED

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2025-2026 Service Agreement Parks & Recreation and DDA – Director Taavola presented the 2025-2026 Service Agreement Parks & Recreation and DDA with an explanation that if the proposed social district moves forward, the agreement will be renegotiated to include the additional burden on the department. Sjoquist inquired whether the Farmer's Market gardens were the responsibility of the department. Taavola will clarify this issue for the beautification crew. Sjoquist expressed disagreement with the funding presented in the agreement. A motion was made to approve the 2025-2026 Service Agreement Parks & Recreation and DDA by Pfothenauer and seconded by Bostwick.

Voting Yea: Gary Stevenson, Bob Bosk, Anne Pfothenauer, Jay Bostwick, Roger Aho

Voting Nay: Cathy Sjoquist

MOTION CARRIED

Adopted 2025/26 Department Budgets – Director Taavola presented the adopted 2025/26 budget for the recreation department. The capital outlay projects budgeted under the general fund include the Recreation building roof replacement, continued work on the ski chalet siding, the new Pram Shack, chip seal the beach

parking lot and chip seal the road around the Big Pavilion. The harbor capital outlay includes the upcoming Phase II project. Taavola gave an update on the harbor project.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Anne Pfothenhauer: No comments

Roger Aho: No comments

Gary Stevenson: Stevenson suggested a project for the campground to include a multiuse court (i.e., basketball, volleyball, pickleball, etc.). He also inquired about grants that would be available for a tunnel under the highway for side by side and snowmobile crossing to and from the bluff area.

Bob Bosk: Bosk reiterated the need for safety crossing on 10th Street near the school and suggested putting a fence in the median to route crossers to the crosswalks and not through the gardens. He also inquired about installing a sign or signs at the Sports Park to direct the public to amenities. Another topic discussed was the logo project. Taavola gave an update on the project. Once the project is approved, the proposed banner project can move forward. Bosk continued with reminders about the Don Poe plaque for the ski chalet and the old South Bluff Hill road cleanup of trees down in the path. Bosk inquired about the status of the old creosote abatement system and whether it is going to be removed any time soon.

Cathy Sjoquist: The campground subcommittee, including Roger Aho, Anne Pfothenhauer, Cathy Sjoquist and Kathy Pepin, will meet Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at 3:00 pm at the Recreation Office. Sjoquist also inquired about the director moving to the harbormaster's office during hours not covered by the harbormaster. Sjoquist asked about suggestions for enforcing the daily boat launch tickets. She also stressed that the beautification crew should take extra care when maintaining the city hall property this year. Additionally, she inquired about the ski hill electric system and whether there are any issues that can be addressed this summer. Sjoquist would also like to see more detail in the meeting minutes.

Jay Bostwick: Bostwick inquired about the ski hill season, how it went, what was open and were there party rentals? Taavola stated that there were several schools that rented the tubing hill for private use, 2 tubing runs were open for the majority of the season and the ski hill was open for a short time. Bostwick asked how the actual budget compared to the approved budget. Taavola stated that no budget adjustments were made for the ski hill, the actual was under budget. Bostwick also asked if refunds were given for the 2024 passes at the ski hill. Taavola said that refunds were given to those who made a request through the department online request form. Bostwick then asked Taavola to put last year's budget review on the next meeting agenda.

John DeFiore: No commen.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, Pfothenhauer motioned; Aho seconded to adjourned meeting at 9:07 pm.