



City of Sidney, MT
Park and Rec Committee Meeting
April 11, 2022 12:00 PM
115 2nd Street SE | Sidney, MT 59270

The City Council meetings are open to the public attending in person, with masks encouraged when social distancing cannot be accomplished. If the public does not wish to participate in person, they are also invited to participate via a Zoom meeting. You can participate via phone:

Meeting ID: 863 4247 2305 Passcode: 4332809 Call: 1-346-248-7799

In Attendance: Alderman DiFonzo, Alderwoman Godfrey, Alderwoman Christensen

Other: Mayor Norby, Chief Kraft, PWD Hintz, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Shanks

1. New Business

a. 2022 Park Use Agreements

Adult & Co-Ed Softball: There was no issues with the agreement. Alderwoman Godfrey asked if the shed had been fixed and PWD Hintz stated he does not believe it has been tied down yet. He stated he can get a hold of Art Herman about that. This agreement will be put on hold until that is corrected.

RC Baseball: Alderman DiFonzo asked for the agreement to be put on hold, as well as the School MOU to amend both for the School Baseball. He stated the school is budgeting for it for the 22-23 school year. Alderwoman Christensen stated this agreement only goes until August 18th, so we can wait until the winter to amend these. Alderwoman Godfrey stated she would like to add to the agreement that they must supply a practice and game schedule, as that park is utilized for other items and that anything approved prior to the schedule being released will take precedence and must be worked around.

Girls Fast Pitch Softball: Alderman DiFonzo stated there needs to have some modifications to the number 2 field, that would designate it to a specific use for fast pitch softball. He stated people can come in and move the fences and bases for adult softball for field 1 and 3, but field 2 is strictly used by fast pitch and girls summer softball, so it can't be changed. He stated this might be a separate council item. He stated Little League softball could use it also. PWD Hintz stated the Adult Softball agreement should be amended to include they are restricted to fields 1 and 3 and hang a sign. General Consensus was to add this restriction to the Adult Softball Agreement. There was no changes recommended to the Girls Fast Pitch.

Sidney Schools MOU: This agreement had no recommendations for changes.

Sidney Tackle Football: This agreement had no recommendations for changes.

Sidney Tigershark Swim Team: Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin pointed out that their dock was supposed to be replaced and the new one engineered by the end of last summer. PWD Hintz stated there is issues with the gutters that he believes is directly due to their dock. This agreement will be on hold until a meeting with the Swim Team is held to discuss this.

Sidney Trap Club: PWD Hintz stated there is some confusion as to who owns this property, as the County believes they own it. He stated he will be working on this with County Civil Attorney Kalil. There was no issues with this agreement.

Sidney Youth Flag Football: Alderman DiFonzo asked how the wear on the field is with this, PWD Hintz stated there was an issue with canadian thistle, which was treated by Con's Weed free of charge, and it is gone and the grass is coming back. There was no issues with this agreement.

Sidney Youth Girls Softball: There was no issues with this agreement.

Motion was made to recommend approve the Richland County Baseball agreement with changes, the Girls Fast Pitch agreement, the Sidney Schools MOU, the Sidney Tackle Football agreement, Sidney Youth Flag Football agreement, the Sidney Youth Girls Softball agreement, and the Sidney Trap Club agreement.

Motion made by Godfrey, Seconded by Christensen.

Voting Yea: DiFonzo, Godfrey, Christensen

b. 2022 Svarre Pool Ticket Prices

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided a budget and pass cost comparison for the Committee. PWD Hintz stated the only capital projects he has is a pump that needs to be replaced that will cost around \$2,000 and touch up spot painting. He stated also with in house labor they will fix the cracks on the decks and get the gutter welded, but that the pool is very good shape. Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated there is a lot of room to cut the budget in payroll and capital expenditures and would like to see that happen, not increase pass costs. Alderwoman Christensen stated she agreed.

Motion was made to keep the pool pass costs the same as the 2021 season.

Motion made by Christensen, Seconded by Godfrey.

Voting Yea: DiFonzo, Godfrey, Christensen

Alderwoman Godfrey stated she would like to see a grant option started for pool passes for low income and/or the Boys and Girls Club. Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated administering a low income grant is a very hard thing to do, but to designate vacation passes for the Boys and Girls. Alderwoman Christensen stated we can look into asking for donations for the Boys and Girls Club also.

c. Amend Special Event Application/Process

Alderswoman Godfrey stated in her role at the Chamber she has had to work with Chief Kraft on numerous events on what needs to be supplied or happen. She stated our current application does not include security, noise and needs to be clearer on safety and many other items. Alderswoman Godfrey supplied the Committee with the Billings Special Event & Right-of-Way Permit Application. She stated this would also include recouping costs that the City incurs for these events. Chief Kraft stated when Alderswoman Godfrey reached out to him about having alcohol at events, she pointed out that other municipalities are doing many different options, including designated cups that they can fill at local bars and then take to the event that would not have open container laws for those designated cups. He stated he talked to MMIA on liability and they stated they have had one claim for such situation, but the municipality has an extensive permit and application process so it was easier to litigate. He stated there is a lot more to go into this than just approving Billings application.

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated she agreed and that this application would be a good start process, as she would like to see the different permits, such as noise permits, be created and some of the current application would need to be included. Chief Kraft stated all of this should be flushed out prior to any application would be approved and Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated she would like to see herself, PWD Hintz and Chief Kraft use the Billings agreement as a starting point and get this amended to fit the City of Sidney.

Alderman DiFonzo stated he feels this application is too lengthy and parts will be skipped or ignored by applicants, and not equally applied to everyone applying. He stated he also feels alcohol should be restricted to certain designated locations and does not feel the variance to the open container law across the City should happen. Chief Kraft stated we would not want to deviate from what we are allowing currently, such as no bottles or cans. Alderman DiFonzo stated the open container law is in place for a reason and you cannot allow people to walk around town with alcohol. Chief Kraft stated he does not want to allow that either, it would be for very specific events for specific times, certainly not rolling back the current ordinances. Chief Kraft stated the purpose is for the burden of this planning and security falls not on the City and on the event planner.

Motion was made to table this until the City Staff can review and amend and present back.

Motion made by Christensen, Seconded by Godfrey.

Voting Yea: Godfrey, Christensen

Voting Nay: DiFonzo

Meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm.