

MINUTES
Park & Recreation Advisory Commission
Wednesday, May 3, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.
Lower Level Conference Room

Members Present: Brad Bark, Rick Bierman, Sarah Hoeg and Dana LaRue

Members Absent: Pete Degabriele, Jennifer DeFosse and Gina Othmer

Staff Present: Rich Klimes

Guests Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m.

LaRue motioned to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2023 regular meeting as distributed. Seconded by Hoeg. All ayes; motion carries.

Discussion – Community Dome

Four million dollars has been raised to build a dome at the Soccer West facility. Staff will keep the commission informed as more information is available. The plan is to send the project out for bid in fall of 2023 after design discussions and council approval takes place. We expect construction to start in spring of 2024 with a grand opening in fall of 2024.

LaRue motioned to approve Brad Bark as the commission representative for the dome committee. Seconded by Hoeg. All ayes; motion carries.

Discussion – Bruner Field

City Council agreed to gift Bruner Field to the Muscatine Community School District. The school district has rescinded their request to be gifted diamond #1 and will now be building a new softball field on the high school grounds.

Discussion – Cemetery Rules and Regulations

The Cemetery Rules and Regulations were distributed and discussed. A recommendation was made to review the following items:

1. Burial depth for vaults
2. Eliminate the non-resident fee

The commission was asked to review the distributed Cemetery Rules and Regulations as staff will be asking for approval at the next commission meeting.

Update – Programs and Projects Updates

Programs – Summer registrations started Tuesday, May 2nd for many of our summer youth and adult programs. You may register online or by contacting the Parks and Recreation Office.

Projects – Staff gave an update on the following projects:

- The Southend Improvement Projects continue to make progress on the following items:
 - The paint at the pickleball courts is starting to rust. The courts may need to be repaired.
 - We are still waiting on the restrooms to be delivered.
 - The trail connector from Kent Stein Park to Sunset Housing is being installed this month.
 - The crosswalk from Oregon Street to Earl Avenue will be poured next week.
 - The splashpad at Taylor Park should be done soon.
 - The playgrounds at Musser Park and Taylor Park are being installed now and should be complete by the end of May.
- The Weed Park Lagoon Project was approved for \$500,000 and will start after July 1st.

Update – Special Events

Staff discussed special events and informed commission that 150-200 plus special events take place each year.

Other Business

The City has received a request to put the largest steel structure slice of watermelon on the riverfront. Staff would recommend that placement of the structure be in a spot where it will not block visibility.

LaRue motioned to approve the concept of the watermelon slice on the riverfront subject to location. Seconded by Bierman. All ayes; motion carries.

Staff informed the commission that Nick Gow is no longer employed with the City. Staff and the commission showed great appreciation for Nick and thanked him for his many years of service. The Parks and Recreation Department Organizational Plan Priority was discussed. Commission was in favor of the proposed plan.

Hoeg motioned to endorse the Parks and Recreation Department Organizational Plan Priority as presented. Seconded by LaRue. All ayes; motion carries.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Rexroth
Officer Coordinator