

MINUTES
Park & Recreation Advisory Commission
Wednesday, January 3, 2024 – 5:30 p.m.
Lower Level Conference Room

Members Present: Brad Bark, Rick Bierman, Pete Degabriele, Gina Othmer and Delmar Kuhlers

Members Absent: Dana LaRue, Sarah Hoeg

Staff Present: Rich Klimes, Jennifer Eagle

Guests Present: Colon Family: Eddie, Ryker, Brandi

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

Othmer motioned to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2023 regular meeting as distributed. Seconded by Bark. All ayes; motion carries.

Discussion – Sports Dome Project

The City Staff has worked in collaboration with the Muscatine Community and Muscatine County to raise \$4,000,000.00 for the Muscatine Indoor Sports Dome. The funding for this project will come from the City of Muscatine \$600,00.00, Muscatine County \$400,000.00, private donations \$2,000.000.00, and a State of Iowa Destination Iowa Grant \$1,000,000.00. The new complex will be located at the Muscatine Soccer West site across from the Muscatine Soccer Complex on field #11. The project will include the construction of an indoor, temperature-controlled, multi-use facility that will consist of a synthetic turf field and an inflatable year-round dome structure (approximately 350' long x 250' wide x 75' high). There will also be restrooms and a concession area on site. If fire suppressant is needed, that will be an additional \$300,000.

The proposed members for the Sports Dome Design Committee are:

1. Brad Bark – Chamber/Council
2. Gina Othmer – Soccer (Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission)
3. Sarah Hoeg – Softball/Baseball (Parks and Recreation Advisor Commission)
4. Dana DeKeyrel – Kent Stein Park Tournaments
5. Nate Meineke – Soccer Complex Tournaments
6. Jim Howe – Funding/Business Community
7. Andrew Fangman – City Community Development
8. Kevin Coon – City Engineer
9. Rich Klimes – Parks and Recreation Department
10. Jeff Limburg – Facility Maintenance
11. Kelsie Stafford – Facility Usage
12. Kevin Jenison – City Communications Manager

Discussion – Miracle Field

Review of placement for Miracle Field on Google Maps.

Kuhlers asked about time frame – Klimes responded once we complete the concept plan and cost estimate, subject to outside funding; will be presented to the City Council for approval.

Bark moves to approve the concept plan, cost estimate & funding source for the Miracle Field as presented. Seconded by Othmer. All ayes; motion carries.

Discussion – Cemetery Rules and Regulations

Updated Cemetery Rules and Regulations was sent via email to members. Discussion centered around non-resident fees. This item has been tabled and will be added to the next meeting agenda.

Discussion – Community Art

Staff presented photos of the community art RAGBRAI bikes donated by MP&W. The commission was shown a couple of options for placing the artwork.

Othmer motioned to approve the community art to be placed near the Clam Man Statue on the River Front. Seconded by Kuhlers. All ayes; motion carries.

Discussion – Weed Park – Illuminate by Crossroads

- Staff received positive feedback from the community
- Kuhlers questioned if more security may be needed for next year due to the unfortunate vandalism.
- Degabriele suggested sponsor signs be bigger/more visible, more durable for weather

Discussion – Aquatic Center Master Plan

Staff is looking at putting together a committee to work with them on potential upgrades at the aquatic center. This committee to meet Friday's at 9:00 AM.

- Pump & Paint Repairs
- Increase pay for Pool Manager
- Benches need repairs

Hoeg motioned to appoint Rick Bierman, Brad Bark and Gina Othmer to the committee. Seconded by Kuhlers. All ayes; motion carries.

Discussion – Proposed Budget Review

- 14 Divisions \$3.7 Mil
- FY July 1 to June 30
- \$15,690 Under Revenue Projections
- \$95,125 Expenditures Under Budget

Update – Programs and Projects Updates

Programs –The Parks and Recreation Department is currently offering Gymnastics at Pearl City Station and Co-Ed Recreational Volleyball at Susan Clark Middle School.

The new Program Supervisor, Blake, started in December. He is currently working on the Spring/Summer 2024 brochure.

Projects – Staff gave an update on the following projects:

- The Soccer Irrigation Project was completed in 2023.
- The Muscatine Community Foundation Southend Improvement Projects continue to make progress on the following items:
 - The trail connector from Kent Stein Park to Sunset Housing will be done by the end of the month.
 - The crosswalk from Oregon Street to Earl Avenue is done.
 - The splashpad at Taylor Park is completed.
 - We are working on a plan to replace the rust spots on the pickleball courts.
 - Additional amenities will be added once we know where we're at with the restrooms and pickleball courts.
- The Weed Park Lagoon Project was approved and we are in the process of soliciting engineering services. Some items of concern are: fix the bridge, dredge the lagoon, add rip rap, replace the decking, etc.
- The Cemetery Chapel Repair Project was approved.
- Security cameras for parks and recreation sites were approved.
- Dog Park Applications are now online. The link is available on the City Website.

Update – Special Events

Current and upcoming special events were discussed. The Cemetery Walk was held Sunday, September 24th at 1:00 pm.

Other Business

The proposed members for the Boat Harbor & Marina Committee

1. Brad Bark – Chamber/Council
2. Rick Bierman

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Eagle
Officer Coordinator