

MINUTES
Park & Recreation Advisory Commission
Wednesday, November 6, 2024 – 5:30 p.m.
Council Chambers

Members Present: Gina Othmer, Brad Bark, Delmar Kuhlers, Mario Lebron, Pete DeGabriele and Sarah Hoeg

Members Absent:, Chris Boar

Staff Present: Rich Klimes, Jennifer Eagle, Melissa Baker, Blake Allington and Jeff Limburg

Guests Present: Peggy Gordon, Jen Peterson, Whitney Phelps, Pete Simonsen, Stacie Cochran, Angie Lewis

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

Kuhlers motioned to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2024 regular meeting as distributed. Seconded by Bark. All ayes; motion carries.

Update – Indoor Sports Complex

A. Usage Guidelines

The Parks and Recreation Scheduling and Usage Guidelines were distributed for review to all in attendance, including citizens.

- Klimes discussed the balance of recreational usage and business/tourism/special event usage of facility to ensure availability to everyone.
- Goal is to have a zero-budget effect
- Discussion of fees that groups have had to pay at other facilities took place with the citizen present.
 - Four (4) game guarantees (approximately \$200/game – baseball)
 - \$500-\$800 fees in Burlington
 - Burlington has also charged other groups \$100/hr per day with 50% gate fee.
 - TBK: Gate fee of \$10 per person per day + an average of \$800 fee per team
 - Ensure to charge enough for maintenance/sustainability of the Dome.
 - Suggestion of a tiered fee structure
 - Tier 1: Promotional/Business
 - Tier 2: Muscatine – Local
 - Tier 3:
 - Tier 4: Free Time
- Parks & Recreation Staff is working on a regional fee survey & Staffing Survey
 - Higher Team Fees/Lower Gate Fees vs. Lower Team Fees/Higher Gate Fees
- Hope to invite citizens & groups back in for scheduling when we have a better timeline of the opening of the Dome.
- Drop-in free time availability Monday through Thursday
- Warm-up area for teams?

- Pickleball scheduling idea:
 - Drop-in for free
 - Schedule for fee
 - One court rental at a time
 - No pickleball usage during special events or tournaments
 - Pickleball usage allowed during practices
- Special Events
 - Idea of Graduation dates with 1hr time blocks to rent spaces on pickleball court area.
 - Private for Profit/Non-Profit Fundraising
- Alcohol:
 - Could help with the zero dollar budget effect/ Additional Revenues
 - Spills & Stains?
 - Not appropriate for youth activities – Maybe okay for adult activities or Special Events
 - Costs of licensing low – high income/revenue
 - Idea to test it out for the first 6-12 months
- Concessions:
 - Always available or certain events?
- Dome project updates are available on the City Website
 - Construction Schedule is about 4-5 weeks behind
- City Council will make final decisions

Update – Weed Park Lagoon Project

The Weed Park Lagoon Project reported the following:

- Project Start in May & completed in October.
 - Approval for final improvements to go to City Council on November 7.
 - \$162.00 under budget
- Sledding hill is being looked into
- Colorado Street entrance not complete.
- Possibility of art piece to be added to duck island by Community Art Committee

Update – Southend Improvement Projects

The Southend Community Improvement Project reported the following:

- Updates to the Taylor Park Pickleball Court, including moving the fencing and updates to community rules were ongoing.
 - Looking into resurfacing the pickleball courts, adding additional bike racks & benches.
- Installation of shade structures in Taylor Park.
- Completion of updates to Taylor Park Splash pad and restrooms.

Presentation – Marina Master Plan

Melissa Baker Presented a Slideshow with information gathered from a survey sent to both boaters and the general public that staff conducted earlier this year.

- The most desired requests were:
 - Dredging
 - Restrooms>Showers
 - Convenience Store
 - Lifts/Covered Slips
 - Note: Covered slips would limit the visual access of the real-time cameras
- The costs of these improvements are not yet put together.
 - The Marina loses money each year.
- This presentation on these updates will be given to City Council In-Depth meeting on November 14.

Presentation – Aquatic Center Master Plan

Staff discussed possible updates to the Muscatine Aquatic Center. Parks and Recreation staff and the community were surveyed for possible fixes or updates for the facility and its current state as the pool is 20 years old.

- The most desired requests were:
 - New Benches
 - New Shade Structures
 - Climbing Wall
 - Inflatable Obstacle Course
- Costs of these improvements are not yet put together.
- This presentation on these updates will be given to City Council In-Depth meeting on November 14.

Update – Projects/Programs/Special Events

Staff discussed updates on projects. Additionally, staff discussed program updates, including recreation programs.

Staff informed the commission on Parks and Recreation special events & results, which include:

- Fall Festival, October 12th at Pearl City Station from 1-3pm during Pearl City Vintage Market with around 175 participants.
- Trunk or Treat at Kent Stein Park on October 26th from 6-8pm with a great turnout of around 1300 people.
- The Youth Volleyball Clinic Started October 26th with an enrollment of 7 participants. This clinic lasts 4 weeks or 4 classes.
- Girls Basketball Clinic for 2nd & 3rd Graders began October 26 with an enrollment of 5 participants. This clinic lasts 4 weeks or 4 classes.
- Gymnastics Session B classes started with a total of 97 enrollments & registration for Session C began on October 28.
- Coed Recreational Adult Volleyball League is to start this month with 17 teams registered.

- Registrations for the Boys Basketball Clinic began October 28 with a deadline of December 27 and the clinic starting January 4, 2025.
- Registrations for the Soccer Skills Clinic began October 28 with a deadline of December 27 and the clinic starting January 4, 2025.
- Registrations for Blastball began October 28 with a deadline of January 24, 2025 and the clinic starting February 1, 2025.
- Turkey Trot at Muscatine Municipal Golf Course on November 16th at 10am
- Candy Cane Hunt at the Riverfront on December 6th at 6pm during Jingle and Mingle.
- Elves Workshop at the Muscatine Mall on December 14 from 1-3pm during the Muscatine Area Farmers Market's Handcrafted Christmas.

Staff commented that the Miracle Field project is planning for a Spring/Summer construction.

Other Business

Community Art Ragbrai Bikes – where to place them:

- Suggested by the old McKee Building on raised foundations
- Suggestion to split the two bikes up, one on each end of town
 - Maybe one in the round about that might be going in near Green & Hershey
- Request to council when location is decided.

Items going to City Council Meeting 11/7:

- Approval of Rec Desk – to replace current program, ActiveNet
- Weed Park completed work
- PO to replace plexiglass @ cemetery chapel (ARPA money)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Eagle
Administrative Specialist