

MINUTES
Park & Recreation Advisory Commission
Wednesday, January 8, 2025 – 5:30 p.m.
Council Chambers

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

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Rich Klimes, Jennifer Eagle, Brett Parcher

Guests Present: Peggy Gordon

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

Lebron motioned to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2024 regular meeting as distributed. Seconded by Boar. All ayes; motion carries.

Update – Indoor Sports Complex

A. Usage Guidelines

- Public meetings complete
 - 20-30 people at public meetings
 - 3-5 groups were met with individually
 - Unsure of alcohol usage at this time
 - Boar commented alcohol doesn't really make a large profit from experience at Almost Friday Fest.
 - Alcohol could be treated in the same manner as Riverview Center or Pearl City Station rentals – Permit for Beer, Wine & Champagne for special events – but not for sporting events.
 - Coolers – yes
 - No glass, no sunflower seeds, no gum, etc.

B. Fee Structure

- Fee Survey of comparable fee structures for our region (w/ free time availability)
- Scheduling:
 - When: We are unsure until we receive an updated construction schedule.
 - Scheduling will come after the fee structure is complete.
 - Hoping for a late June – early July soft opening.
- Concessions:
 - Percentage will go to the city to help keep fees low & cover costs
- Gate Fees:
 - Groups will charge gate fees for their sporting events.
 - Percent of the gate fees may go to the city
 - No gate fee for practices (parents/siblings watching practice)
 - Hourly rate will be charged to groups holding practices.

- Staffing:
 - Full Time Supervisor
 - Full Time Maintenance
 - Assistant
 - Assistant Director Position – 60-70% Dome & Facility Scheduling

C. Additional Dome Information/Discussion

- Camera at front door.
- 14-16 groups interested in multiple weekends
- Multiple events/activities occurring at once
- Pickleball: Season Passes, Hourly Rates
- There will be growing pains – we will learn as we progress

The Commission has reviewed the Scheduling and Usage Guidelines for the 7th time and approve.

Update – Parks & Recreation Projects

A. Southend Improvements

- Viewing area around pickleball courts
- Repainting pickleball courts – held retainage from original paint contractor
- Trash cans, bike racks, benches

B. Riverview Center deck replacement, windows, cracking in foundation estimated at \$500,000 to go to council for approval

C. Riverfront Fountain

- State permit holding this up – looking to see what options there are to get this moving forward

D. Lagoon Project

- We have received great feedback from the citizens
- Electrical for fountains needs to be completed
- Art Committee may want to put a piece of art on the duck island

E. Upcoming Projects: Weed Park – Volleyball lights, Concrete pad with stationary workout equipment; Leadership Muscatine Projects.

Updates

A. Programs & Projects Updates

- Adult Volleyball
- Get outside kickoff in February
- Gymnastics
- Soccer Clinic
- Basketball Clinic

B. Special Events

- Requests coming in for the year
- Triathlon coming to Muscatine County on August 2, 2025

Peggy Gordon mentioned she volunteered at the candy cane hunt in December & it had a good turn out with 80-100 participants.

Other Business

A. Ordinances

- Current Weed Park Fishing Ordinance limits fishing at Weed Park to only those 14 years old and under
- DNR will stock the ponds for 20 years if ordinance is removed

Commission agrees to remove ordinance.

B. Cemetery Fees

- Commission agrees to remove non-resident fees. It is agreed that fees will be raised to match what was previously considered the non-resident fees.

C. Additional Notes:

- November or December Dancing with the Stars of Muscatine with 10 contestants. More to come!
- Commission members toured the clubhouse with update needs in mind.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Eagle
Administrative Specialist