

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES**

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2020 @ 7:00PM

JAMES J. EAGAN CENTER

**NOTE PARK BOARD MEETING WAS MOVED FROM WEDNESDY TO TUESDAY
WITH VETERANS DAY BEING ON WEDNESDAY**

Board Members Present: Linda Rose, Walt Kaiser, Monica Wideman, Kristina Curnutt, Kim Burns and Jennifer Fite

Not in attendance: Rev. G Robinson, Robert Shoemaker and Jason Steinbruegge

City Staff Attendance: Chery Thompson-Stimage and Beth Goldstein

Approval of Minutes: Meeting began at 7:03 pm. All in attendance approved minutes as written.

Citizen Participation: Andrew Harris, Councilmen for Ward 1 was in attendance and just introduced himself and thanked the board for all they do.

Report from the Director of Parks:

- The budget has gone to the council for their approval. First approval was done last night. The final approval of the budget will be on Nov. 23rd.
- Full time staff had been furloughed to a 32-hour work week but starting the week of Nov. 2nd everyone has returned to 40 hours per week. The softball and volleyball leagues started this week.
- Work began on the enhancements to Koch Park Splash pad which is also associated with our current grant.
- The city submitted a new grant in August to install the inclusive playground at Manion Park. We learned in early October that we were approved for funding of this project. The city will need to raise \$210,395 to complete the project
- Our full-time staff has been reduced by one custodian in July and eventually we will go down to 2 clerks hopefully sometime in January.
- Money has been put in the budget to replace the roof on the Weise House and new gutters should be going in any day.
- A new center director was hired in August. Her name is Liz Renaud and is working at the Eagan Center.
- A new filtration system was installed on the indoor pool during September. It has made a tremendous impact on the water quality in the pool. Due to the fact we were waiting on one more part for a motor, opening was delayed to Sept. 30th.
- Recently due to crowds gathering in the back-parking lot at St. Ferdinand speed bumps were installed along with parking bumpers down the middle of the park lot.
- We were able to finally stock the lake for the first time this year in September. We usually spend about \$2,000 per filling. However, we are just going to stock it once

this year so we stocked it with \$3,000 of fish. We are still keeping the catch and release program until we stock it again next year.

- The ice rink was able to open on time, with a few very warm days that we were not able to skate.
- This summer even though Bangert was closed we had 90 kids that signed up for the swim team who did not have a lot of meets but did swim in one at Bridgeton.
- Halloween Skate party was held for 5 – 8 graders with 100 in attendance.
- We are doing a Food Drive in competition with many other communities and we are collecting food at both centers and city hall.
- The Boo Bash was a tremendous success, so much so that we had to shut entrance in at 8 p.m. and we were there until 9:30 when the last car came through.
- We have had a gentleman that has painted two more murals for us under the Lindbergh overpass.
- Our tennis lessons this summer were very popular and we are now moving them inside to continue with the lessons.
- Volleyball and softball had a 1.5-month season then we had to shut them down due to St. Louis County restrictions.
- Our skate lessons program has sold out and is very popular.

Andrew asked about the rock at the splash pad? Yes, they are taking out the rocks and we will be putting concrete in.

Monica asked if the City will be putting in any money for the playground? Yes, the City will if we don't raise the additional funds needed. Also, the city is required to put in 5% of the total cost.

Kristina wanted to clarify that Unlimited Play is who is helping us raise funds. Accessible Play is who originally started the planning of the playground.

Monica's daughter raised \$300.00 for the playground. They had a family garage sale and sold lemonade and bagels.

Monica suggested getting all schools involved in North County. Reaching out to see if they are interested in raising awareness. Maybe have lemonade or cupcake stands. Would be a good idea to encourage students to raise money.

Monica said a friend asked about an online link for getting donations. Kristina said there is one but it is not user friendly. Work needs to be done to improve this. People like it easy for donating.

Monica suggested putting a link on the city website to learn more about Angie's playground.

One of Monica's friends has a contact at Emerson, who should she forward this to. She feels it would better for a someone from the city to make the connection. Cheryl will take care of this.

When will they be breaking ground? Cheryl doesn't have a date at this time.

What is the deadline for raising funds? With the paying of the bills probably next June or July.

Kristina suggested talking with local businesses to see if they would want to sponsor some of the playground. It would be good advertisement.

Kim and Jennifer suggested dodge ball tournaments for fundraising. In the past have been very successful. How would collecting of the funds work? The city could set up the event in our program system for payments.

Councilman Eagan has someone in his ward that was in the service and when he got out he joined Border Patrol and he was having a lot of issues with PTSD and ended up committing suicide. The family wanted to put a bench in one of the parks in honor of him. The Border Patrol gave the family money for this. This will go in at Bangert by the tank. This was one of his favorite places play.

Announcements: A sorority will be having a ceremony at Koch Park at 4:00 pm on Veterans Day. No further information was available.

Communications: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Adjournment: Walt made a motion to adjourn at 8:16 and was seconded by Monica Wideman.