

**Minutes of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board meeting
May 20, 2021**

The meeting of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order by Chairman John Simpson at 3:30 PM in the Training room of City hall. Social distancing was observed by members spreading out in the meeting room. Guests attending were Toby Stertz, Parks Crew leader, Chris Clausen, Parks department carpenter, Tarrah Sonnenschein, Guy Ferris, Blake Weisgram and son Blake.

Members joining were: Don Templeton, Buddy Seiner, Rachel Arbach and Jeff Hanig. Also present was Commissioner Vona Johnson and Director Tom Farnsworth. Excused was board member Greg Dean, YMCA CEO Aaron Fabel and Recreation Superintendent Mindy Cheap.

Templeton moved, second by Hanig to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

Seiner moved, second by Templeton to approve the agenda as presented with one addition to old business, skate park. Motion carried.

Old Business

Chairman Simpson asked to change the order of business to allow Dog Park to be the first item of discussion to accommodate guests attending. The board concurred.

Dog Park status –

Chairman Simpson called on Tarrah Sonnenschein and Guy Ferris to present their information on status of the dog park fence and other amenities. Sonnenschein thanked the City for assisting with the planting of trees at the dog park. There are approximately 10 more to be planted when they are shipped to Pierre. This will complete the tree buffer plan. Ferris showed pictures of a wood post and top rail fence as a possibility for the fencing material for the dog park. They have a contractor willing to donate labor for the installation. Park staff had concerns with the long term maintenance of this type of fence vs. a chain link fence. A picture was shown of residential black chain link fence. Stertz strongly recommended to use a commercial grade chain link for durability and low maintenance. Commissioner Johnson had concerns over what the neighborhood would think of a cowboy type wooden post fence. Sonnenschein stated the wood posts are different than what was originally planned. Clausen gave her a contact name for commercial grade chain link fence that parks department uses. She has submitted a grant to AARP for \$30,000 for fencing materials. Simpson asked her to go back to AARP to see when grant awards are made, he stated often you can't start a project until after grants are awarded. It may be premature to erect a fence at this time. Templeton asked how much funds they have on hand. Sonnenschein stated about \$9,000 remains after the dog park trees are paid for. Simpson asked Ferris and Sonnenschein to come back to the board with an update on grant status and dog park budget when they know more. Farnsworth stated an overall site plan with other amenities and parking layout needs to be reviewed as well as dog park rules. Ferris was advised to see the engineering department on curb cut out and parking lot approach.

Mary House Shelter update –

Simpson called on Clausen for any updates to design and costs for a replacement shelter to the current Mary House shelter in Griffin Park. Clausen distributed a handout and reviewed the design, costs, elements of the design, showing the new estimate is \$86,485 for a steel structure. Dialogue with the

board on the design and costs was helpful. All agreed it is hard to estimate costs in today's purchasing environment. The shelter may be a combination of metal and wood. Clausen explained the size would be approximately 36 ft. in diameter at its widest point to 33 ft. in diameter as the design is octagon in shape. Board members thanked Clausen for his update. Motion by Seiner, second by Simpson to accept the recommendation on a steel/wood frame type structure as Clausen presented. Motion carried. Farnsworth stated the estimated cost would be requested in the proposed 2022 budget for construction in 2022. Demolition of the current structure may take place later this fall as assistance is needed from other departments to haul debris after their normal construction season.

Pickle Ball project update –

Seiner informed the board on status of a web site to donate to the pickle ball project, a radio interview was scheduled for later in the week to inform the public, a request will be made to the Pierre BID board for cost share funds and he anticipates the funding to come in ahead of schedule for the project.

Griffin Park Campground –

Farnsworth informed the board the City Commission had accepted their recommendation on no tent camping policy, an increase in fee for RV campers from \$16 to \$25 per night all effective June 1. No limit on number of nights to stay. Staff are preparing for changing signs and printing new campground registration envelopes.

Skate Park –

Commissioner Johnson introduced guests Sam and Blake Weisgram who have interest and knowledge about skate parks. The board was shown two designs from American Ramp Company of a possible replacement skate park as the current skate park needs to be removed to prepare for the new outdoor pool. The board had a dialogue with Sam and Blake on design and features. The preferred design was #6115, an above ground skate park, that is placed on a 50 ft. x 100 ft. concrete pad. The estimated cost is \$101,035 and can be manufactured, shipped and installed yet this fall if order was placed by early June. Location identified to place it would be east of the current skate park, across Capitol creek and to the south in Griffin park. An old elm tree would have to be removed but it is time for the tree to go as it is aged and splitting apart. There would be a need for a budget supplement for this new skate park. Commissioner Johnson stated she has support from the Mayor to replace the current skate park as it has to be taken out. To reuse would be a challenge and cost to move and void any warranty. Motion by Seiner, second by Hanig to select skate park design #6115 as shown and location in Griffin Park. Motion carried.

Downs Marina project –

Farnsworth handed out the final design and costs for the Downs Marina Peninsula improvement plan as prepared by Stockwell engineers. The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and there is a need to do more engineering study to determine if a No Rise in elevation can be achieved. The project is in the flood plain and must comply to FEMA regulations. The City is waiting for a cost proposal from Stockwell for this work. The project may be on hold until the No Rise in elevation is determined. Depending on costs, the project could be delayed one year or put on hold.

New Business

Dogs on Sports fields –

This item will be held for a future meeting.

Fabel and Cheap were excused so no updates from YMCA or Recreation Department.

Five Year Plan document –

Staff handed out a revised five year plan. 2021 project updates were given. Staff will continue to work on estimated costs for the 2022 projects. The board will review the projects and prioritize at the June 17 meeting.

Motion by Hanig, second by Templeton to adjourn the meeting at 5:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Farnsworth, Director