

Berkley Parks and Recreation Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes 12/14/2018

Attendance: Jes Alger, Greg Patterson, Gary Polk, Mike Kerby, Betty Smith

Parks and Recreation: Theresa McArleton

Call to order: 7:01 PM

Approval of prior minutes: Motioned by Greg Patterson and Seconded by Gary Polk, with corrections

Guest Comments: Liz P. CEAC is looking to the splash pad.

Matter of Program Update:

On Fridays from 11:30-1:30 there will a second drop in and play added. Last week there were over 50 kids that attended on Monday. There are several new programs being offered, check the website for details. Holiday camp was canceled due to lower interest, thought to be caused by the school holiday schedule this year. WinterFest plans are being finalized and will be held on Feb 2. The Buzz is almost completed and will be sent to the printer for mailing in the middle of February. Beaumont Health has added a second day for the enhanced fitness program and chair yoga due to the number of participants. Senior trips are planned and have been highly successful in the number of seniors participating.

Grant Updates and Next Steps:

The grant was approved and the project at the Oxford Merchant Park should begin starting late spring/early summer. The National Parks still must issue the final approval and funds which can take about 4-6 months. The plan includes universal restrooms, a splash pad, a new fence and play equipment that is already budgeted for. P&R staff and city staff will plan community involvement to lead the discussion on the final plans soon.

Spring Projects:

School give back day is scheduled for May 11. The plan is to have this team help maintenance crew in cleaning the parks, planting flowers, and laying mulch. Jaycee Park will receive a new 10 seat spinner. Dad's Club and School Boosters will donate funding to update bathroom equipment at Community 1 and will redo the fencing.

Summer Camp Preparation:

The dates are being finalized. Andersen Middle School will be the location of the camp, plans are being finalized. Currently looking for staff, anyone over the age of 18 interested should contact P&R. Registration will be online again this year. Senior Picnic will be at Jaycee park again this year. The summer movie date is being decided.

Budget Work:

A new finance director was hired for the city. P&R staff will begin to work on the budget in the next few weeks. Some of the capital that might be requested is improved drainage at the parks, play equipment, some new lawn equipment, and a new tractor, and funding to remove the crumbling ice arena.

Comments:

A happy holiday season was wished by all members of the board and all welcomed Jes.

Jes A.: Looking forward to the second day added to the drop and play and all the other growth in program offerings. The Friends of the P&R will hold a euchre tournament on Saturday, February 23 at the Legion.

Mike K.: Is looking forward to new development at the parks.

Theresa M.: Storytime in the park will happen again this year, in partnership with the library. Is currently working with cruise fest. Wish to express gratitude with the amount of work and effort that was put in by staff with respect to the grant turn-around time. She and her team keep staying the course to see the benefit of others.

Greg P.: Would like to thank the staff for all the dedication and hard work that can sometimes go unnoticed. The staff is truly dedicated to the citizens it serves. Is appreciative of all the work that was done on the grant process and is looking forward to the development of the parks.

Gary P.: Overjoyed about the grant being approved. Stated how much help and support Jes has been to the board in the short time she has been on the board and is excited to have her.

Betty S.: Great to have Jes on the board. Will be great progress to see the parks being redone, feels the fencing around the ballfields will lead to better use of space.

Bridget D.: sent a letter since she was not able to make meeting: City council has approved a road diet trial period, supported the renewed contract of DDA director, and tunnel to tower has also received support from city council.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:02 PM Motioned by Gary and seconded by Betty.