

PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF DYERSVILLE

April 22, 2019

Meeting called to order by Scott Kluesner at 5:58 P.M.

Commission Members Present: Brian Cassidy, Pam Goedken, Scott Kluesner, Matt Monahan (arrived at 6:34) pm, Jon Scherbring, Joey White

Commission Members Absent: Adam Huehnergath

City Staff Present: Gavin Nadermann, Lori Panton, Mick Michel

Approve Monday, April 22, 2019 Agenda

Kluesner asked for review and approval of the agenda. Brian Cassidy made a motion to approve the Monday, April 22, 2019 agenda. Motion seconded Pam Goedken

Voice Call Vote: **AYES:** All

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Adam Huehnergath, Matt Monahan

Motion Carried

Oral Comments:

None

Approve March 25, 2019 Minutes

Kluesner asked for comments or changes and there were none. Brian Cassidy made a motion to approve the March 25, 2019 minutes. Motion seconded by Pam Goedken.

Voice Call Vote: **AYES:** All

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Adam Huehnergath, Matt Monahan

Motion Carried

Receive & File: Director's Report (March 2019)

Gavin Nadermann informed the commission of the following:

With the Babe Ruth team this year, the city is down 20 registrations from last year. Without the Babe Ruth team, the city is down 35 registrations.

The Little League Fields Opening Event has been scheduled for June 13, 2019.

Restrooms for Westside Park have been ordered and should arrive by mid-May with installation complete in June.

Brian Cassidy asked if there is any historical data on the registrations. Gavin advised he could get that and will email it. It seems the city is losing a lot of players to the traveling teams. Pam and Brian stated traveling team players are encouraged to also play on city leagues. Pam stated the kids are also not staying on city leagues because the kids feel the rules are below the current levels.

Brian Cassidy made a motion to receive and file the Director's report. Motion seconded by Joey White.

Voice Call Vote: **AYES:** All

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Adam Huehnergath, Matt Monahan

Motion Carried

Item #1 - Little League Fields Opening Event:

Gavin Nadermann stated the opening event will be on June 13th. There are 4 games scheduled that day, so there will be a full schedule. He will check with Adam Huehnergarth to see if he is still interested in providing ice cream. There was discussion on whether to provide other food. It was decided to check with Tom Arens to see if he wanted to bring the concession trailer to the fields. There is electricity available and place for the trailer to be parked. Gavin advised the Mayor has agreed to throw out the first pitch of the one game. He asked for any ideas about the other game. Brian Cassidy suggested asking Dave Nebel.

Joey White made a motion accept the discussion. Motion seconded by Pam Goedken.

Voice Call Vote: **AYES:** All

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Adam Huehnergarth, Matt Monahan

Motion Carried

Item #2 – Little League Fields Update:

Gavin Nadermann advised all the concrete work is complete and the gravel walkways are in place. They still need J & J Lawn Care to install bases and home plate anchors. The bleachers, wall railing, and dugout benches still need to be installed. These should be completed before the first game next week. Brian Cassidy asked if practices could start there. Gavin felt it was safe for practices and would email the coaches.

Joey White stated he has concerns regarding the 3rd base position when the sun is setting and players not being able to see the ball. Mick Michel advised the engineering firm provided the best design of the ball fields with that issue in mind. This will be monitored and if it becomes an issue it will be dealt with.

Joey White wanted to know when and if there will be equipment at the ball field. Gavin advised a shed for the equipment will be ready next week. Joey also asked about permanent restrooms and concessions facilities. Mick Michel advised that will be an issue for FY-20.

Brian Cassidy asked if the Park & Rec resources were being spread too thin with all the upcoming projects. He said there are a lot of ideas out there and he is just concerned about them getting completed. Michel advised the Little League diamonds took so long because they were not a bid project and were done with city staff and resources. The upcoming projects will be bid out and will have deadlines. Michel also advised the original design for the little league diamonds did not include bathrooms and concessions area. Plans have changed in the last 2 years and these will need to be budgeted for. Joey White asked how the board could get things pushed along. Michel advised to set the priorities at budget time. Brian Cassidy brought up the idea of monetary and labor donations to help.

Item #3 – Westside Park/Candy Cane Update:

Gavin Nadermann advised new fencing is going up on the front diamond at Candy Cane park. The backstop is also being installed on the back diamond. The fence in front of the dugouts is being replaced. At Westside the fields are ready to use. He is working on getting the tee pads installed for the disc golf course.

Joey White has some concerns with the long grass. Gavin advised he talked to J & J Lawn Care. They have the mowing contract this year and have mowed in the past. They are aware of the height requirements for both baseball and soccer.

Mick Michel advised the two pedestrian bridges will be going in the year at Westside and this will finish the loop at that park system.

Item #4 – Dog Park Update:

Gavin Nadermann advised the concept drawing of the proposed dog park was part of their packet. The proposed location is at Candy Cane Park across from the skate park. Mick Michel advised fencing will be about the only item installed this year. Future development will be dependent on donations. This project will take some time to complete. Candy Cane is a good location because there is access to parking and water and is away from the major flooding area.

Item #5 – Aquatic Center Update:

Gavin Nadermann advised new filters have been installed, a new controller has been installed, an addition chlorine pump has been added to maintain chlorine levels, painting of the pool is being done this week by ACCO, some repairs were completed last year, and the workers have been hired. He plans to have staff meetings in about 2 weeks. He has a full staff this year. Lessons will also remain the same as last year. He pushed out the deadlines this year due to staff concerns, but with the full staff he was able to keep lesson levels the same. Currently there are only 1 or 2 pool parties scheduled.

Item #6 – Ertl Property Update:

Mick Michel advised the city council has approved an agreement with the property owner. This space will be primarily for the bridge but will also grant the city a good amount of park space. Since the area is heavily flooded it will be kept for trails and just green space. This area will be developed over time and will create one large park with 3 areas.

Item #7 – Bear Creek Update:

Mick Michel advised the Bear Creek project is tied into the Downtown Plan. The city is starting with Bear Creek because of the funding received. The project will be let this fall. The North Fork project is bigger and grander and will have a more functional turn out. This will start at Hwy 136 and continue over to Hwy 20. This will create recreation activities like canoeing. It will take time but the two will be tied together along with bringing it all to downtown. There will be public input meetings as this gets closer.

Item #8 – Property Tax Reform Update:

Mick Michel wanted to bring this to the boards attention because it does affect parks and recreation. It is too early to determine the outcome because there are so many options but whatever passes will affect everyone. It could come down to essential services versus non-essential services. The essential services will come first and since parks and recreation are non-essential those services could be affected. User fees could be affected because property tax dollars help subsidize those programs. However, until the final bill is passed, we won't know the outcome.

Commission Member Comments:

Joey White asked if the Rental Agreement had been passed and why it seems things always seem to be dealt with at the last minute. Mick Michel stated the council did approve it. There was discussion regarding the agreement, why it was needed and the payment structure. Mick Michel also stated it comes down to priorities and determining what the council wants and requires. No one was happy with the agreement last year. There was discussion on what groups will need to

pay and who gets priority. Mick stated city events will not need to pay and will get priority. There was discussion on the Downtown Market and why they do not need to pay. Pam Goedken wanted to know about practice times for the traveling teams. Mick stated city leagues and reservations would come first. But if the field is open use it. Joey White wanted to clarify that traveling teams are all local kids that just want to play more. There are no try-outs for the teams. Pam Goedken would like a copy of the final agreement and would like it on the website.

Joey White would like due dates early when it pertains to getting fields and diamonds ready. It always seems coaches are waiting for fields to be ready. It was explained the timeline is dependent on the weather, priorities and available labor. Pam Goedken and Brian Cassidy suggested getting students needing volunteer hours and coaches to help clean up and prep the parks. It was also suggested to have better communications to reduce coaches' frustrations.

Chris Smith was present and stated he has coached, and it seems the grass is never ready. Kids are falling/tripping over the high grass and clumps of mud. Maybe the grass needs to be mowed lower in the fall, so it is shorter in the spring. He also agrees that there is an issue with the setting sun at the Little League diamonds.

Joey White would like all scheduled practice times on the Park & Rec calendar, so everyone knows when a field is available.

Matt Monahan asked if there will be batting cages at the Little League Diamonds. Gavin said there would be.

Council Member Tom Westhoff was present and explained the revisions made to the Rental Policy. He stated we now have a policy. Let's see how it goes and see what needs to be approved upon and bring that information back to the council.

Set date for next meeting: The date for the next meeting will be Monday, July 29, 2019 at 6:00 P.M.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:39 P.M. on a motion by Brian Cassidy, seconded by Joey White.

Motion Carried

Lori A Panton

Lori Panton

04/22/2019

Date