

# **PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

## **CITY OF DYERSVILLE**

September 27, 2021

**Meeting called to order by Sarah Goldsmith at 7:00 P.M.**

**Commission Members Present:** Sarah Goldsmith, Jon Scherbring, Taylor Klostermann, Wes Burkle, Matt Monahan, Adam Huehnergath

**Commission Members Absent:** Scott Kluesner

**City Staff Present:** Gavin Nadermann, Mick Michel and Sandy Oberbroeckling

**Oral Comments:** None

### **Approve September 27, 2021 agenda**

Goldsmith asked for review and approval of the agenda. Goldsmith made a motion to approve the Monday, September 27, 2021 agenda. Motion seconded by Klostermann.

Voice Call Vote:       **AYES:** All  
                              **NAYS:** None  
                              **ABSENT:** Scott Kluesner

**Motion Carried**

### **Approve August 24, 2021 Minutes**

Goldsmith asked for comments or changes and there were none. Scherbring made a motion to approve the August 24, 2021 minutes. Motion seconded by Burkle.

Voice Call Votes:       **AYES:** All  
                              **NAYS:** None  
                              **ABSENT:** Scott Kluesner

**Motion Carried**

### **Receive & File: August 2021 Director's Report**

**Oral Comments:** None

Monahan made a motion to receive and file the August 2021 Director's report. Motion seconded by Huehnergath.

Voice Call Votes:       **AYES:** All  
                              **NAYS:** None  
                              **ABSENT:** Scott Kluesner

**Motion Carried**

### **Item #1: Soccer Rule Discussion**

Nadermann described the new soccer rule. The rule states that we require Dyersville residents to play on a Dyersville team; however, we allow other town teams to have 10% of their team to be from Dyersville. This would normally equate to 1 to 2 children per team. The rule was instituted to avoid coaches taking

kids out of town to make special, club-like teams. We want to maintain the integrity as a recreational league. This rule was recommended by the committee; however, not yet approved by the city council.

Steve Wessels, 629 2nd Ave SE, Dyersville, IA, who is an assistant coach on the New Vienna soccer team was the first to address the commission. He stated that his intent was to get soccer going again in the smaller towns. New Vienna was a struggling town and he just wanted to get their town moving again. There are kids from 7 different communities and 5 different schools on their 7th/8th grade soccer team. Wessels had asked permission from Nadermann to allow kids that were already signed up in Dyersville to withdraw and play for New Vienna. There was some conversation between Mick Hermsen and Nadermann between July 14-18th. Wessels thought it was taken care of. The group did not agree with the way the rule was created. Wessels suggested to table the rule tonight and set up ways to change this rule. Area towns, Farley and Holy Cross are going to try to get a soccer league going. They may need to have some kids from other towns They need to encourage other parents to get involved.

Scherbring asked how residents of New Vienna were made aware of the potential soccer league in New Vienna. Burkle asked how it was communicated. Allison Engelken, 7524 Columbus St, New Vienna, Iowa, the President of the New Vienna Athletic Association said their motto is "It's for the kids!" They allow all kids to play no matter where they live. They recently only offered softball, baseball, and family nights and would like to expand with soccer. On March 17, 2021 over one hundred families were sent an email regarding the idea of creating a soccer team. They did not have enough players. A second reminder email was sent out on April 13, 2021. They still did not have enough players so they recruited players to have enough for the 7th/8th grade team. On April 15, 2021 they sent out an email that they did not have enough players for any of the teams, except 7th/8th grade. They also encouraged all younger players to sign up in Dyersville, but to plan for the future.

Scherbring asked how many kids they had signed up at each level. Engelken's response was as follows:

Kindergarten: 5  
1st/2nd Grade: 8  
3rd/4th Grade: 4  
5th/6th Grade: 5  
7th/8th Grade: 6

With these numbers it was questioned why they didn't focus on a 1st/2nd grade team since they had the most players for this group. Engelken responded that they had a coach for the 7th/8th grade team already and not the younger team. Goldsmith questioned where the email address list came from. Engelken stated that they were from present and past athletes (softball/baseball). Burkle questioned why it was not on the New Vienna Facebook page. Engelken stated that would have been a good place to advertise; however, they did not. Huehnergath recommended they reach out to other area small towns (Petersburg, Luxemburg, Bankston, Farley, etc.). There would be a good chance that they would have enough players if all these smaller towns would come together. Possibly ask Nadermann for a list of non-resident soccer players. Engelken restated that if they have players that come to them and want to play, they do not feel they can turn them down.

Michel stated that our parks and recreation program is paid partially by the city taxpayers and user fees. People who live in Dyersville pay for this program whether they use the program or not. We've encouraged surrounding communities to enroll in our program as a courtesy. We don't want our kids being recruited from outside towns to have a team with the best of the best and then have a town team that has all unskilled players on it. Nadermann added that we are trying to protect our town teams to be a recreational league that anyone can play in and not make it a club team. Wessels agreed that they have no intent to make a club team. Their emphasis is on more kids playing soccer, even if they have never played before. Dyersville has a great field set up for the league where other smaller towns do not have fields

large enough for a regulation size field. It was also commented that we could possibly use the Beckman field if needed.

Michel suggested forming a committee with a couple of our commission members, Nadermann, Michel, and 2 representatives from New Vienna to discuss how to proceed for next year. This committee should focus on the fields we currently have and what we can handle in the current league.

Monahan questioned what other city teams are charged. Nadermann stated that the fee is \$15 per player. The question was asked if they wanted to raise this fee. Michel stated that we want it to remain inviting for other towns to play here. Monahan also questioned how many teams we could handle. Nadermann stated we could handle more, the games would go later on Saturdays.

Mick Hermsen, 7335 Fork St., New Vienna, IA, coach from New Vienna soccer team did not agree with everyone that spoke before him. After reading the minutes of the August 24, 2021 meeting, he feels that they were saying a person was stacking a team and calling kids from Dyersville to come and play on his team. He stated all residents were allowed to play, but some chose not to. They were open about the entire thing. They went with 7th/8th grade team because they had a base and thought they'd be able to find enough players for a team. They needed more kids. They did not ask their skill level. They were approached about three years about creating a team. They decided if they were going to do it, they needed to do it now. Hermsen was offended that he was labeled as this type of coach. He feels that there is another town team that should be addressed for their practices that are not ethical. All towns need to follow the rules. If it's a recreation league, the kids should all receive similar play time. Hermsen agrees with having even playing teams, it makes it more exciting to watch. Another town team needs to be addressed.

Engelken asked if a child reaches out to New Vienna to come to play with them because they have numerous issues with Dyersville coaches, would they be able to play on a New Vienna team. This would be handled on an individual basis.

Rob Wegmann, 1181 Woodland Dr., Dyersville, Iowa, stated that he thinks parents should be allowed to put their kids at the level they think they should play. Kids that are old for their grades sometimes get frustrated that it's not more competitive. Some kids don't want to play in a recreation league because it's not very competitive. Wegmann feels this would make it more competitive and keep kids in town. He even mentioned possibly having different divisions.

**Comments:** None

**Set date for next meeting:** The date for the next meeting is set for Monday, October 25, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M. on a motion by Huehnergarth, seconded by Burkle.

Voice Call Vote:     **AYES:** All  
                          **NAYS:** None  
                          **ABSENT:** Scott Kluesner

**Motion Carried**

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Sandy Oberbroeckling

09/27/2021  
Date