

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, March 14, 2023

1. Call to order by Beth Arneberg at 6:00 p.m.
Roll Call: Members Present: Audrey Stowell, Travis Siebert, Beth Arneberg, Justin Agnew and John Abbe.
Absent: Reggie Geissler
Staff present: John Jimenez and Jack Hays
2. Approval of Minutes: February 14, 2023. **Motion by Abbe/Siebert to approve minutes of February 14, 2023. Motion passed.**
3. Personal Appearances by Citizens. Ron Bakken is present and updates the Board on the Learn to Fish event on the first Saturday in June. This coincides with the DNR's free fishing weekend. There is also an event in the winter, but that event is not held at the parks.
4. Discuss/Consider Special Event Applications. None.
5. Discuss/Consider
 - a. Chippewa Valley Vipers Rugby Pitch Proposal at Casper Park. Players from the Vipers Rugby team are present and discuss their hope to start a team in the Chippewa Valley. The team consists of 17-year-olds with parental consent and older players. Looking for a field to call home. John J. feels we can convert the soccer field closest to Gannon field to a multi-purpose field and line it for both soccer and rugby. John will put together proposal for contract. **Motion by Siebert/Abbe to approve having Director prepare contract to have Vipers Rugby team use a field at Casper Park as its home field as presented. Motion passed.**
 - b. Flag Hill Update. Floors in bathroom are being re-installed. Council approved funds for matching grant. With other donations, we can move on to Phase 2. Hoping to have everything in place to break ground in 2024. Phase 2 includes the stairs, parking lot, plaza, and fully-accessible playground. Discussion included pavilions and donation bricks at the plaza. Jack Hays leaves during this time.
 - c. Pool Committee Meeting. Listening forum will be held on April 17 at 6:00 p.m. People will be able to speak for 3 minutes. Survey will be coming out March 27 and available until May 5.
 - d. Log Cabin at Irvine Park. John J. states it is pretty bad shape. The chimney has dropped causing floor to crack and cave in. Discussed possibly seeking some sort of collaboration with Historical Society.
 - e. Chippewa Store Collaboration. John J. gave printing costs for t-shirts. Working on proposal to sell t-shirts, etc., at either the Welcome Center and/or their store. **Motion by Siebert/Arneberg to use funds from Welcome Center donation fund to purchase shirts with funds being returned to donation fund from revenue. Motion carried.**

- f. Recreation Report. Jack's written report is distributed. New Activity Guide was released digitally. It looks great. Printed guides are not yet available. John briefly discusses report highlights. Discussion regarding Marshall Park tennis courts being converted to pickle ball courts.
 - g. Director Report. Reviewed letter from citizen who wishes us to consider extending hours of park. Discussed consulting with police department and reviewing ordinance with respect to patrol and safety issues before taking any action. John would like to recognize Park Board members by having their pictures at City Hall. John discussed how he's attempting to better know what each staff's day looks like.
6. Approve Claims. **Motion by Siebert/Stowell to approve claims in the amount of \$17,706.37. Motion passed.**
 7. Park Board Members' Concerns or Comments. Question regarding maintenance of roads in Park. Discussion of All Trails app. John and Jack are planning to walk and GPS all trails. Discussion of youth or beginner's league for disc golf course. Discussed using nice color signage and possible QR codes next year on our trails, similar to what is in use at Kemper Woods.
 8. Adjournment. **Motion by Siebert/Abbe to adjourn at 7:49 p.m. Motion passed.**

Submitted by:
Audrey Stowell, Secretary