

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, December 12, 2023

1. Call to order by Beth Arneberg at 6:02 p.m.  
Roll Call: Members Present: Audrey Stowell, Justin Agnew, John Abbe, Beth Arneberg  
Absent: Travis Siebert, Reggie Geissler and Heather Martell  
Staff present: John Jimenez
2. Approval of Minutes: November 14, 2023. **Motion by Abbe/Agnew to approve minutes of November 14, 2023. Motion passed.**
3. Personal Appearances by Citizens. No appearances, but John did receive a letter from Jackson, who did the trail at Erickson Park.
4. Discuss/Consider Special Event Applications. None.
5. Discuss/Consider
  - a. Pool Committee Update. John reports that the flood plain has raised more of an issue than initially thought. The pool will be open this summer. The plan is to extend the season to August 24 and be open longer hours – from noon to 7.
  - b. Flag Hill Update. John reports that Ayres has provided a conceptual design from 3 different companies. John favors embankment play, spinners, etc. Hopefully the design will be finalized for January.
  - c. Marshall Park Master Plan. John feels the plan should be reviewed and items prioritized.
  - d. Forestry Health/Management at Irvine Park. John states forestry management has been a topic lately, especially on the ski trails. He has had discussions with Mike Dahlby regarding harvesting to create a healthier forest and generate some revenue. John hopes to have him at the January meeting so we can hear his proposal.
  - e. Christmas Village Timers. In an effort to find ways to keep staff happy and stay productive, timers for the Christmas Village lights has been discussed. Currently, there is a 1:30 – 10:00 p.m. daily shift so that the lights can be shut off. While it's helpful for staff to be around to troubleshoot when necessary, there isn't a lot to be done during this timeframe. The cost for timers is \$3,500 / breaker x 12 breakers. Discussion included applying for tourism or other possible grants in addition to or in lieu of using Christmas Village funds, as it would be nice to have all done at the same time instead of one or so per year for many years.
  - f. Zoo Animals and Exhibits. John indicates we have many aging animals. There will be some changes coming in January. We will be keeping 1 tiger, the hyenas will be replaced, possibly with lynx or bobcat. He will keep public updated through social media.

- g. Recreation Report. Jack has left for other employment. His position has been posted.
  - h. Director Report. It is the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary for the band shell. Discussed possible celebration dates and having Air Force Band of Mid-America perform for July 4 and possibly the celebration. John will contact the band and see what's possible. There is a new staff member starting January 3, and the Parks will then be fully staffed for their full-time positions.
6. Approve Claims. **Motion by Stowell/Arneberg to approve claims in the amount of \$82,781.73. Motion passed.**
  7. Park Board Members' Concerns or Comments. Beth expresses concern for one more full-time staff. John comment that Friday is "Christmas Comes to Life" at Irvine Park. Comments regarding how nice the park looks and use of the QR codes.
  8. Adjournment. **Motion by Abbe/Agnew to adjourn at 7:27 p.m. Motion passed.**

Submitted by:  
Audrey Stowell, Secretary