

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, February 13, 2023

1. Call to order by Beth Arneberg at 6:06 p.m.
Roll Call: Members Present: Audrey Stowell, Justin Agnew, John Abbe, Beth Arneberg, Travis Siebert, Reggie Geissler and Heather Martell
Staff present: John Jimenez
2. Approval of Minutes: January 9, 2024. **Motion by Geissler/Agnew to approve minutes of January 9, 2024. Motion passed.**
3. Personal Appearances by Citizens. None.
4. Discuss/Consider Special Event Applications. John presents three repeat special events: Walking to Defeat ALS, Kickin' in the Park Walk and the Farmer's Market applications. **Motion by Arneberg/Siebert to approve with past practice. Motion passed.**
5. Discuss/Consider
 - a. Tree Savvy Tree Donation Program. Harrison McClain presents a Municipal Tree Donation Program wherein they will donate minimum of one tree, every year, to every local municipality participating in their program. One tree will also be donated for every 10 trees purchased by residents of the City. **Motion by Siebert/Geissler to approve the Municipal Tree Donation Program a presented by Tree Savvy LLC. Motion passed.**
 - b. Pool Committee Update. The pool committee has met and discussed further options for the pool including locating it at its current in addition to other locations.
 - c. Flag Hill Phase II. Thomas of Ayres is present. John indicates we are on budget with Phase II, excluding the playground, with changes in trail material. The playground budget is roughly \$300,000. Due to change in the vision of the playground to be more inclusive, John and Thomas feel it may now align more fully with the DNR grant and we may want to apply for the grant again. If granted, the drawback would be that it could not be constructed until 2025. We would know this fall if the grant was being received, and we could plan accordingly. Stairs, plaza & trails would still be done in 2024. Plan is for documents to be out for bid on March 1, with bid opening on March 29, and a contractor approved at our April meeting. After discussion, **Motion by Geissler/Siebert to apply for the grant. Questions. Motion passed.**
Reggie left meeting at this time.
 - d. Forestry at Irvine Park. Caleb Meyer is present to answer questions regarding a forest management plan proposal for the 170 wooded acres inside Irvine Park. Cost is \$6,900 to inventory, survey and obtain data. The data would then be used to finalize a Forest Management Plan. **Motion by**

Siebert/Stowell to approve \$6,900.00 for Implementation of Forest Management Plan as presented. Motion passed.

- e. Forestry Department. Department has lost employee Joe Wedemeyer to another department. Thankfully, the street department has been able to help our department this year; for example, they have been helping with the ash trees in the boulevards. Discussion regarding what the forestry department / position may look like in the future. No action taken.
 - f. Music at the Riverfront Sponsorship Options. John presents his additional incentives for sponsorship of music at Music At the Riverfront during the summer months at Riverfront Park. No action taken.
 - g. Summer School Contracted Services Agreement with the CFUSD. John provides the Contracted Services Agreement with the Chippewa Falls School District to facilitate classes for the summer of 2024. **Motion by Abbe/Siebert to approve the Contracted Services Agreement with the Chippewa Falls School District as presented. Motion passed.**
 - h. Irvine Park Donations for Light Replacements. Staff has requested new lighting inside the zoo building, at the wood shop in the maintenance shed, at the workshop in the maintenance shed and in the mechanical room. We've received a quote for \$2,600 from Roshell Electric. John has requested this be paid from the donations account. There may be extra lights at Street or another department and John will check into this before moving forward. **Motion by Stowell/Agnew to use donation account to pay Roshell Electric \$2,600 for new lights where needed. Motion passed.**
 - i. Recreation Report. The Recreation Supervisor position is still vacant. Position will be reopened. Spring/Summer Activity guide is out.
 - j. Director Report. John reports he's continuing to plan for the anniversary of the band shell and Movies in the Park; Music at Riverfront is set; fireworks are set. We'll be receiving grants from Community Foundation for Irvine Park, Casper Park, and Riverfront donation accounts. We have also received a grant for t-ball equipment. John would like to allocate funds for esports and capital improvements at Gannon Field.
6. Approve Claims. **Motion by Arneberg/Siebert to approve claims in the amount of \$65,925.40. Motion passed.**
7. Park Board Members' Concerns or Comments. Abbe comments the duck pond project should be put on the list to be part of 2025 Thorpe funds.
8. Adjournment. **Motion by Siebert/Agnew to adjourn at 8:03 p.m. Motion passed.**

Submitted by:
Audrey Stowell, Secretary