

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, April 9, 2024

1. Call to order by Beth Arneberg at 6:03 p.m.
Roll Call: Members Present: Audrey Stowell, John Abbe, Beth Arneberg, Travis Siebert, and Heather Martell
Absent: Justin Agnew and Reggie Geissler
Staff present: John Jimenez, Mikinley Prafke
2. Approval of Minutes: March 12, 2024. **Motion by Abbe/Siebert to approve minutes of March 12, 2024. Motion passed.**
5. a. Eagle Project (Cole Gilles). Cole Gilles proposes a foot bridge about 3' wide and 2 feet off the ground on Glen Loch Trail in an area that is chronically wet and muddy. **Motion by Arneberg/Martell to approve the Eagle Project as presented. Motion passed.**
3. Personal Appearances by Citizens. No personal appearances. The Native Wildflower Garden group has corresponded indicating they want more visible signage. John will put it on the agenda for next month.
4. Discuss/Consider Special Event Applications. Olson's Ice Cream has applied to have its 80th Birthday Bash on 7-21-2024 at Riverfront. **Motion by Siebert/Abbe to approve Olson's Ice Cream application as presented. Motion passed.** TTM has applied for an Employee/Family Picnic on September 14, 2024, at Main Pavilion. The date may change when Activity Building is also available. **Motion by Siebert/Stowell to approve TTM Employee/Family Picnic as presented. Motion passed.**
5. Discuss/Consider
 - a. Discussed above.
 - b. Flag Hill Phase II. Four bids were submitted. Low bid was over \$2 million, submitted by Haas. Bid includes stairs, trail, plaza, parking lot and playground. Funds available are \$655,700.00, which includes grant matching for stairs, trail & plaza. John is applying for additional grant to get playground to \$600,000, which takes total project over \$1.2 million. Contractor is willing to work with us to get under budget. Ayres feels we will be able to get playground to \$600,000 with changes. The stairs came in at more than double the estimated cost; they are unsure what drove that price but will be looking into that and seeing what kinds of adjustments can be made. Thomas of Ayres discussed various items that may reduce pricing and recommends \$1,455,700 as a target number for the budget. This means we will need to find about \$200,000 in additional funding. **Motion by Siebert/Arneberg to award bid to Haas with change orders to meet adjusted budget of \$1,455,700 (Stairs, trail, plaza, parking lot at \$855,700 and playground at \$600,000). Roll call vote: Martell – yes; Siebert – yes; Abbe – yes; Stowell – yes; Arneberg – yes. Motion passed.**

- c. Pool Committee Update. Pool Committee met before Park Board meeting. John stated they reviewed various options at the meeting. These include building at Casper Park or by YMCA, phasing the bath house while moving pool to other side, and moving pool to corner where rose garden now is.
 - d. History Museum Utility Road. John reviewed the documents/agreement we have with the museum and states there is no issue with allowing them to pave it. **Motion by Arneberg/Abbe to allow History Museum to pave utility road by the building; it cannot be used for parking. Motion passed.**
 - e. Thaddeus Pound Park. John discussed removing back fencing. Discussed keeping the fence by the road. **Motion by Abbe/Martell to remove fencing at Thaddeus Pound Park, but keep fence by the road. Motion passed.**
 - f. Irvine Park Zoo. John states the animal owner may be proposing some changes to our agreement. John has requested he submit in writing so it can more easily be forwarded to us for review. The hyenas will soon be replaced with bobcats. He'll also be taking one of the tigers.
 - g. Possible Sculpture for Riverfront. Beth was approached by a donor who knows the artist of a sculpture who has a piece that is currently under contract with Eau Claire until July. Discussed placement location near the main fountain. **Motion by Siebert/Arneberg to approve the artist's pursuit of bringing sculpture to Riverfront Park as presented. Discussed having no or minimal cost to the City.**
 - h. Recreation Report. John gives report. Soccer program successful but still need refs. Dodgeball has started. Junior Zookeeping registration opens next week and starts in June. Mikinley Prafke is our new hire for recreation supervisor. Welcome Mikinley.
 - i. Director Report. John states Casper Park is in full swing with practices going on every day. Disc Golf tournament will be going on this weekend. John has received donation of exotic mounts for the Welcome Center. Music at Riverfront on July 4 this year will be family event from 6-8 with band at 8 and fireworks at 10. Spacewalkers will sponsor music at Riverfront. Vipers will volunteer. Jefferson pillars are tentatively scheduled to start in two weeks.
6. Approve Claims. **Motion by Siebert/Stowell to approve claims in the amount of \$108,975.94. Roll call vote: Martell – yes; Siebert – yes; Abbe – yes; Stowell – yes; Arneberg – yes. Motion passed.**
 7. Park Board Members' Concerns or Comments. None.
 8. Adjournment. **Motion by Siebert/Martell to adjourn at 8:08 p.m. Motion passed.**

Submitted by:
Audrey Stowell, Secretary