

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, May 14, 2024

1. Call to order by Beth Arneberg at 6:00 p.m.  
Roll Call: Members Present: Audrey Stowell, Travis Siebert, Reggie Geissler, Beth Arneberg, John Abbe and Rob Kiefer  
Absent: Justin Agnew  
Staff present: John Jimenez, Mikinley Prafke
2. Approval of Minutes: April 9, 2024. **Motion by Siebert/Geissler to approve minutes of April 9, 2024. Motion passed.**
3. Personal Appearances by Citizens. No personal appearances.
4. Discuss/Consider Special Event Applications. Wrestling event on June 1 at Riverfront. Application is good with insurance and will charge rental of stage. **Motion by Arneberg/Siebert to approve application as presented. Motion passed.**
5. Discuss/Consider
  - a. Flag Hill and Thorpe Foundation Funds. Thomas of Ayres is present and discussed items that can be changed to get within budget including playground equipment, stair railing and steps, and trail from Bridgewater to Flag Hill. Removing the trail from the project does not affect the grant funding from the DNR. John has also submitted the DNR grant for additional funds for the playground. Discussed possibility of Thorpe funds covering remaining funds with their 2025 and 2026 allocation. Thorpe Foundation will review and advise.
  - b. Forestry Inventory. Mike Dahlby discusses Forest Inventory and Planning preliminary report. He reports the data has been uploaded to DNR website. Mike's recommending an active management plan for the health of the forest. He highly recommends getting invasive plants under control for 2024. Mike reports that most of the acreage needs thinning, but there are some aspen stands that should be clear cut – this is usually done one-third of site at a time. Harvesting could be done late in 2024 – from November to April 2025. Next step is for forester to identify and mark the individual trees to be removed. Mike will provide a financial proposal for proceeding with management of invasives and marking trees. Discussed site restoration and disruption in use. Mike feels we could likely use south ski trails while work is being done in the north area; however, once management moves into the south area, skiing in the north area would not likely be possible unless there's the appropriate snowfall.
  - c. Pool Committee Update. Pool Committee met before Park Board meeting. John recommends increasing admission from \$3 to \$5 as there has been no increase in quite some time. **Motion by Siebert/Kiefer to approve increase in admission from \$3.00 to \$5.00; family passes to stay the**

**same. Motion passed.** John passes around two different concepts that are being considered. Discussion regarding the concepts.

- d. Native Wildflower Sign. John discussed the Native Wildflower sign that would go by the cannons. **Motion by Arneberg/Abbe to share half of the cost of the sign. Motion passed.**
  - e. Donation Accounts. John reviews the funds in each of the donations accounts. Cynthia the Zookeeper has made a request for a whiteboard and a small scale for mammals for total cost of \$900. **Motion by Siebert/Kiefer to approve purchase request of Zookeeper. Motion passed.** After discussion, **motion by Kiefer/Siebert that Director may spend up to \$5,000 from donation account without coming to the Park Board for approval. Motion passed.**
  - f. Zoo Partnership with Matt Schoebel. John reviews animal ownership and overall relationship with Matt. John will continue to request a proposal in writing for review.
  - g. Recreation Report. MiKinley gives report, reviews programming and staffing. MiKinley will be starting full-time this week.
  - h. Director Report. John gives update on pool slide – will be up and ready to go by pool open. Pillars should be done by the end of May; reports they're looking very nice. Pickleball courts will hopefully be ready by August. Discussion regarding Thaddeus Pond Park. Majority of seasonal staff starts this week. Reports on staff hires.
6. Approve Claims. **Motion by Kiefer/Siebert to approve claims in the amount of \$48,809.62. Motion passed.**
  7. Park Board Members' Concerns or Comments. Beth reports we will soon need to review the Outdoor Rec Plan; needs to be done every five years. John A. requests update on animals, which John provides.
  8. Adjournment. **Motion by Siebert/Geissler to adjourn at 8:11 p.m. Motion passed.**

Submitted by:  
Audrey Stowell, Secretary