

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, August 13, 2024

1. Call to order by Beth Arneberg at 6:00 p.m.
Roll Call: Members Present: Audrey Stowell, Reggie Geissler, Beth Arneberg, John Abbe, Justin Agnew, Rob Kiefer and Travis Siebert
Absent: None.
Staff present: John Jimenez, Mikinley Prafke, Kevin Sweeney and Ashley Leahy
2. Approval of Minutes: July 9 2024. **Motion by Abbe/Siebert to approve minutes of July 9, 2024. Motion passed.**
3. Personal Appearances by Citizens. No personal appearances.
4. Discuss/Consider Special Event Applications. Application by Pentecostal church for annual event on September 22. No concerns. **Motion by Siebert/Abbe to approve application as presented. Motion passed.**
5. Discuss/Consider
 - a. Flag Hill. John J. states City Attorney is reviewing contract. Believes we're still on track to break ground this fall.
 - b. Forestry Project. John J. reports Dahlby has been working on invasives. Mike Dahlby has also prepared a proposed RFP for logging in Irvine Park. He is proposing to move forward with timber sales to cover cost of removal of invasives. Dahlby would do work within animal pastures and Hurd Park. **Motion by Siebert/Abbe to open bidding process for logging as proposed. Motion passed. Motion by Arneberg/Siebert to allow Dahlby to remove trees within pasture lands and Hurd Park. Profit from trees to offset cost with remaining to City. Motion passed.**
 - c. AAZK Conference. John J. states Cynthia will be attending the AAZK Conference in Tennessee and requests funds to cover some of her costs. The cost of the conference is \$400; suggests \$200 from operations and \$200 from zoo donations. Cynthia to provide other expenses for reimbursement. **Motion by Geissler/Kiefer to cover cost of conference and travel expenses for Cynthia up to \$1,000. Motion passed.**
 - d. Recreation Report. MiKinley gives report. Updates on Art in the Park, swimming lessons, pickleball, higher pool attendance, aqua dance classes, summer and fall soccer and redesign of Casper Park fields. Pool closure is on August 25 with dog swim on the 28th.
 - e. Director Report. John toured the YMCA in Wausau to examine how their partnership works for their community and see what a partnership could potentially look like. The pickleball courts will be ready to play on in another 24 hours. John reports the fountains at Riverfront continue to be problematic; currently neither is working. John suggests revisiting the design/placement of pumps to avoid future problems after replacement. This year is the 100th anniversary of bandshell, and a program has been set

for September 8. John also reports they are working on various improvements to registration including incentives for coaching, refereeing, and returning participants. He would also like to create a pool of volunteers for the park with a more structured schedule and tasks. John also reports that new signs have been placed in front of the animals. He indicates the fields at Casper Park are being redesigned to have more fields.

Beth leaves at this time. John Abbe leads.

6. Approve Claims. **Motion by Kiefer/Siebert to approve claims in the amount of \$257,205.61. Motion passed.**
7. Park Board Members' Concerns or Comments. None.
8. Adjournment. **Motion by Siebert/ Geissler to adjourn at 6:48 p.m. Motion passed.**

Annual Potluck Picnic held after meeting.

Submitted by:

Audrey Stowell, Secretary