

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, September 10, 2024

1. Call to order by Beth Arneberg at 6:00 p.m.
Roll Call: Members Present: Audrey Stowell, Reggie Geissler, Beth Arneberg, Justin Agnew, and Travis Siebert
Absent: John Abbe and Rob Kiefer
Staff present: John Jimenez and Mikinley Prafke
2. Approval of Minutes: August 13, 2024. **Motion by Siebert/Geissler to approve minutes of August 13, 2024. Motion passed.**
3. Personal Appearances by Citizens. Cole Gilles gives report on his finished Eagle Scout Project on Glen Loch Trail. It looks great and will be much appreciated.
John Abbe arrives during above presentation.
Ryan Roach presents on his proposed Eagle Scout project of placing red granite coarse from Bridgewater to past the tennis courts. This is an extension of the current path.
4. Discuss/Consider Special Event Applications. John has received applications for the Winter Wonderland and Christmas Tree lighting as well as for next year's Pure Water Days. **Motion by Arneberg/Siebert to approve applications with past practice. Justin A. requests porta-potties for Pure Water Days. Motion passed.**
5. Discuss/Consider
 - a. Flag Hill. John J. states contract is signed. We have been awarded \$153,388 in grants, which leaves \$146,612 needed for the playground at Flag Hill.
 - b. Forestry Project. Mike Dahlby and Caleb Meyer give presentation reviewing the bids that were received. **Motion by Siebert/Arneberg to accept the high bid submitted by Buffalo Lumber and Ties with the condition they agree to have at least one hand cutter and a skidder available for immediate deployment to the site; and in the event Buffalo Lumber and Ties is unable to commit to the City's operational requirement, then to accept the 2nd highest bid which was submitted by J.J. Logging who specified their intent to deploy at least one hand cutter and skidder. Motion passed.**
 - c. Duck House Repairs. The south wall on the duck house needs to be repaired. The Zookeepers are present and explain situation. Slowiak Masonry has submitted a quote of \$16,500 to repair. **Motion by Siebert/Geissler from Irvine Zoo Donation funds to repair the duck house wall. Motion passed.**
 - d. Zoo Animal and Facility Update. Cynthia and Micki give needed repairs for the mammal exhibits. Hyena exhibit has multiple items in need of repair. The tiger exhibit also has some holes in the rock structure. The bear exhibit

has holes in the top of the pool and other spots in need of repair. Cynthia discusses using biofloor vs. concrete and proposes using lower portion of the old whitetail exhibit to get a more natural exhibit, similar to Marshfield's Zoo. She would like to take out the south windows of the cat exhibit to give the cat more privacy. Cynthia states the exhibit is too small for two big cats and recommends using a smaller cat species. They are brainstorming for fundraising / yearly sponsorship for these repairs and other enhancements. Discussed life expectancy of the exhibits, most needed repairs, fundraising, and Friends, etc. They also present needs for the two sulcata tortoises. Beth A. suggests staff make minor repairs that need to be done before they get too bad.

- e. Pool Update. John has met with Derek and is hopeful a concept contract can be drafted and reviewed; he discusses a contract with longevity and a mind toward what each entity might want to be responsible for in the future given staff abilities/turn over and financial responsibilities. 2025 pool total revenues were expected at \$55,000; actual revenue was \$97,212.00. Staff expenses were \$89,709. Discussed this likely being due to the City Council allocating funds for new slide as well as general buzz about the pool.
 - f. Recreation Report. MiKinley gives report. Pool attendance was over 16,000 in 2025. Gives report regarding aqua dance classes, fall soccer, pickleball, women's volleyball, men's basketball, first aid class, and rugby clinic. He's requesting 2 grants: 1st grant for first aid class, 2nd grant for AED. He's also doing lifeguarding class, interviewing for rec leader position, and reaching out to donors for Christmas Village.
 - g. Director Report. John states we'll be soon putting up lights for Christmas Village and getting prepped for Run for the Lights. Discussed discontinuing Christmas ornaments, dept budget, and being over budget for seasonable employees. The 100-year anniversary for the band shell was this past weekend – very nice event. John is also working on staff evaluations and gives update on new bandshell benches.
- 6. Approve Claims. **Motion by Geissler/Siebert to approve claims in the amount of \$123,390.40. Motion passed.**
 - 7. Park Board Members' Concerns or Comments. None.
 - 8. Adjournment. **Motion by Siebert/ Agnew to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. Motion passed.**

Submitted by:
Audrey Stowell, Secretary