

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, October 8, 2024

1. Call to order by Beth Arneberg at 6:00 p.m.
Roll Call: Members Present: Audrey Stowell, Beth Arneberg, Justin Agnew, Rob Kiefer and Travis Siebert
Absent: Reggie Geissler, John Abbe
Staff present: John Jimenez and Mikinley Prafke
2. Approval of Minutes: September 10, 2024. **Motion by Siebert/Kiefer to approve minutes of September 10, 2024. Motion passed.**
3. Personal Appearances by Citizens. None.
4. Discuss/Consider Special Event Applications. None.
5. Discuss/Consider

- a. Flag Hill. John J. states Haas will be starting the project within the next week.

John Abbe arrives.

- b. Forestry Project. The contract has been signed with Buffalo Lumber. They are looking to start a little later; John will be confirming they can finish on time. John will be requesting distribution of revenue received from the logging to be used for forestry. John gives tree inventory report and update.
- c. Zoo Exhibits. Renovation of large animal exhibits quotes came in. Hyena exhibit - \$155,000; tiger exhibit \$231,000; bear exhibit - \$396,000. Renovation of all exhibits consists of demo of the faux rock structure and recreation of different aesthetic using more sustainable project. John reports we also have a new vet. John requests funds for tiger care. Beth suggests making request of Friends of Irvine Park Zoo. John will verify there is no urgency of care. John is proposing a rolling gate east of the Watusi indoor/outdoor barn for approximately \$5,000. This would allow staff to do maintenance with larger trucks and allow access for tree cutting. Discussed rolling the fence back during the time trucks need to get in there. John will discuss with staff. John reports on Cynthia's attendance at the conference and passes along her thanks for covering that expense.
- d. Marshall Park. John discusses future plans for Marshall Park, especially for ball field and skateboard park. Ball field is used by t-ball and Special Olympics. John discussed removing the outfield fence and improving and/or maintaining infield. Discussed possible future plans for Marshall and timing of planning.
- e. Recreation Report. MiKinley gives report. Pickleball tournament was Saturday and successful; looking at a spring tournament. Basketball and volleyball league sign ups are continuing. He is getting donations and sponsorships for Run for the Lights. MiKinley also discussed lifeguarding

class, first aid class, swimming lessons, and volunteer opportunities.
Received suggestion for extra communication for winter swimming lessons.

- f. Director Report. John gives report including Christmas Village set-up on November 2, piloting new software, and prepping parking lot at maintenance building in the park. John also distributed donation account summary.
6. Approve Claims. Discussion regarding bench refunds. **Motion by Kiefer/Siebert to approve claims in the amount of \$89,140.69. Motion passed.**
7. Park Board Members' Concerns or Comments. Letter for Thorpe funds should be on the agenda for next month. Potential for historical marker at Flag Hill if we can pin down the history.
8. Adjournment. **Motion by Kiefer/Siebert to adjourn at 7:17 p.m. Motion passed.**

Submitted by:
Audrey Stowell, Secretary