



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes October 14, 2020

Webex



I. Call Meeting to Order

President Crosby called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present: Amanda Crosby, Tjaard Breeuwer, David Demmer, Britt Rohrbaugh, Jill Joyce, Jenny Peterson, Barb Darland, Natalie Chin, City Council Liaison – Arik Forsman.

Not Present: Noah Kramer, David Kirby (ISD 709 School Board Liaison), Frank Jewell (St. Louis County Board Liaison).

III. Approval of September 9 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Darland motioned for approval of the September 9 meeting minutes; second by Commissioner Rohrbaugh. Unanimously approved.

IV. Presentations

A. Buildings and Facilities Update (Informational) – Erik Birkeland, Property and Facilities Manager

Jenny Peterson questioned how the decision came about for the three facilities that will remain open. Birkeland mentioned volume of use played a key factor, Portman has hockey in the basement and hosts the opportunity for rentals, Washington Center has the gym.

Jessica Peterson indicated we will already be incurring cost for the utilities for the building use over the winter. Mentioned Morgan Park and Portman have serviced the Senior Program in the past in collaboration with AEOA, which provided meal service.

Jenny Peterson indicated she understands the rationales, but wondered why we couldn't have buildings in lower income areas. Jess Peterson mentioned Grant Rec had a tenant last year, but they chose not to continue to operate moving forward. Parks and Recreation has not had their hand at Grant Rec, and the previous tenant indicated use requests have been low for this building. Erik Birkeland shared we tend to special requests on a weekly basis – an example would be the Evergreen Center, which is multi-use with the Library and Fire. Shared the City recently had the census meetings, and a blood drive.

Jenny Peterson shared she has been in touch with the Park Point Community Club, indicated there is worry that once it is winterized, it will not be revived. Erik Birkeland indicated staff routinely check these buildings to make sure the furnace is still running, and the water is shut-off so it does not crack the pipes.

Rohrbaugh stated she feels like she is being punched in the gut. Stated the Grant Rec building has been mismanaged, and that it would be devastating to the community if it became no longer available. Shared she has attended many events at Grant Rec.

Jim Filby Williams stated he would like to clarify, Grant Rec has been publicly made aware to be demolished. Indicated we have a limited scope because we do not have active use without a tenant and it doesn't make sense to incur the utility costs within an unoccupied building.

Demmer indicated he is still confused why some structures are being closed. Questioned if the buildings closed in the spring will be reassessed to reopen after the winter. Jim Filby Williams shared the principle



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reasons for choosing the buildings to not be open in the winter. Indicated the result of the pandemic, a large amount of people were laid off and are unable to properly keep the building clean and sanitized. Shared the City has called people back to work, but they have chosen other jobs due to immediate need. Stated there are many positions to be filled.

Jenny Peterson indicated that it is often unfortunate when we cannot get building users in the area to provide programming in low-income areas.

Chin questioned how the reservation system works, if it is a first come first serve basis.

Jess Peterson indicated this is a first come first serve basis. Shared we will work with the community clubs to make sure they have a space to meet, as well as the general public. Highlighted we have an online reservation system where users can make a reservation at anytime. Indicated in the event we have a high demand, where we don't have enough buildings – we would meet with Erik with Property and Facilities and have a discussion.

V. Commissioner Committees

Administrative (E-Board) meeting date: Thursday, November 5 at noon via Webex
Amanda Crosby, Tjaard Breeuwer [Jess Peterson, Megan Lidd, Jessica Haig, Jim Filby Williams]

Public Golf Committee – Tuesday, October 20 at 5 p.m., virtual meeting on Webex
David Demmer, Jenny Peterson, Noah Kramer [Jess Peterson, Jessica Haig]

VI. Commissioner & Liaison Reports

Crosby shared she has been attending the Fitness in the Parks at Enger. Stated was fun and felt great to have a certified trainer. Shared the hope to have programs with certified trainers to continue.

VII. New Business

Crosby shared this is Natalie Chin's first meeting as the new At- Large Commissioner. Chin shared the excitement to be part of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

VIII. Old Business

A. Memorial Program Chapter 35 City Ordinance Draft (Action Requested) Jess Peterson, Manager

Jenny Peterson question item E, curious if the donor could make the repairs, or if the donors will be notified when repairs are needed. Jess Peterson indicated that we do not have documentation for all of our memorial elements in the parks system. Indicated we would reach out to those who have contact information provided to the City.

Rohrbaugh indicated her friends have a bench for their son at the Lakewalk. Shared communication was not delivered to the family that the bench was removed from the storm damage. Shared that the families do not have a lot of say when choosing a location. .

Demmer motion to approve the proposed Chapter 35 City Code updates to include a new section on the Memorial Program. Second Darland. Motion carries.



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XIII. Division Report

Public Comment

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

XIV. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 18 via Webex