



Parks and Rec Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 22, 2023
5:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Roll call found the following members present: Ann Dover, Patrick Gerhart, Jerrett Mills, Terry Rasmussen, Melissa Temple, Austin Truex, and Becki Wulf. Absent: Angie Bailey and Bill Robinson.

City staff present: Parks & Rec Director Nathan Powell, Parks Supervisor Mike Leise, Interim Sports Complex Supervisor, Ryan Beed, Parks & Rec Admin Assistant Jen Olson

Wulf moved, seconded by Rasmussen to approve the June 22, 2023, agenda. Roll call: Ayes: Dover, Gerhart, Mills, Rasmussen, Temple, Truex, and Wulf. Nays: None. Absent: Bailey and Robinson.

Bylaws reviewed and discussed. Powell read aloud and explained parts of the bylaws, then answered questions. Truex made a motion, seconded by Wulf, to approve the Parks and Recreation Board Bylaws. Nays: None. Absent: Bailey and Robinson.

The floor was opened for election of officers:

Mills nominated Ann Dover to serve as Secretary. Gerhart made a motion, seconded by Temple, to approve Ann Dover as Parks & Rec Board Secretary. Roll call: Ayes: Dover, Gerhart, Mills, Rasmussen, Temple, Truex, and Wulf. Nays: None. Absent: Bailey and Robinson.

Mills nominated Melissa Temple to serve as Vice President. Truex made a motion, seconded by Rasmussen, to approve Melissa Temple as the Parks & Rec Board Vice President. Roll call: Ayes: Dover, Gerhart, Mills, Rasmussen, Temple, Truex, and Wulf. Nays: None. Absent: Bailey and Robinson.

Wulf nominated Jerrett Mills to serve as President. Wulf made a motion, seconded by Rasmussen to approve Jerrett Mills as the Parks & Rec Board President. Roll call: Ayes: Dover, Gerhart, Mills, Rasmussen, Temple, Truex, and Wulf. Nays: None. Absent: Bailey and Robinson.

Beed reported past, current, and future projects that they are working on at Ta-Ha-Zouka Park. Ta-Ha-Zouka bridge, dog park, irrigating south dog park, field maintenance, campground maintenance, tree

maintenance, fountain repair at Ta-Ha-Zouka – Powell reported that he has requested dollars to be allocated for that in his budget and will report back if that gets approved. Wulf asked when that would get fixed if we would have to wait a year. Powell answered that work could start in October.

Leise reported past, current, and future projects they are working on at Skyview and the other City parks in Norfolk. Watering trees, removing equipment at Liberty Bell in preparation for the new equipment slated to come in the second week of August, and preparing for Big Bang Boom and Music Concert Series.

Mills asked about the low water level at Skyview. Powell responded and explained they are hiring a firm to repair the system, will need to do a clean out and a bowl assembly.

Mills commended the Division on the planting of trees in the community. Leise reported 2017-2020 planted 272 trees, 2021 planted 34 trees, 2022 planted 72 trees, 2023 so far planted up to 30 trees.

Mills asked about campground and cabin rental numbers. Beed responded that the campground is full every weekend and very busy during the week. Especially during softball tournaments.

Mills asked about Memorial Field topdressing. Beed explained they have been out there maintaining it and they have a new fairway mower.

Truex asked about the former baskets at Skyview. Leise explained they were given to the town Verdigre.

Powell provided the recreation report to the Board. Different rec programs, events, tournaments, swim lesson numbers, Briggs and Barrett donating a reflection garden for Winter Park, two heaters at AquaVenture, and one went out right before the pool opened so that is in the process of getting replaced, playground donation for Liberty Bell from Premier Marketing and Integrity Group, and updated AV hours for July 3 and 4.

Powell reported Admin items to the Board. Master Plan, ribbon cutting for the Warren Cook Storybook Trail, sent out for nominations for the Green Leaf Award, budget process is going on internally, sidewalk completed at Skyview Park parking lot, curb and gutter at Liberty Bell completed, AV Octopus dump bucket feature postponed to replace the heater, skate park agreement approved to install the pump track, completed agreement with the NPS and NECC, special Parks board meeting August 22 for the Master Plan, the 23rd will have a public open house. Requests from citizens from the last month were to have Johnson Park bathrooms open longer and staff responded and the bathrooms are open until 10:30 p.m., mosquitoes at Ta-Ha and staff responded and will be fogging, benches and trash cans downtown staff will be talking with the DNA and VPD regarding this request.

Mills asked about the Johnson Park progress. Powell explained the grading was just awarded at the last Council meeting. The 29th the ice arena and fountain bid will be closed. Would like to have ice skating this winter. The rink will be a refrigerated system so hopefully can go Thanksgiving to March with consistent ice.

Rasmussen asked if the river was going to flow this summer. Powell responded that we went down to seven features to create a surf feature and that is why the river opening is delayed. Discussion still taking place on when the river will open back up. Mills asked about life jackets. Powell explained they would be provided and promoted, but it is not a requirement.

Truex asked about wayfinding and historical panels. Powell explained he is trying to secure funding now and hoping to use grants for the majority of funding.

Rasmussen asked about more trash cans at the events and Leise explained they did receive a request and extra cans were provided. Temple asked about recycling. Leise explained there are not any recycling cans.

Temple asked about additional lighting in the Parks and if that was something on our radar. Powell said yes, Johnson Park, Warren Cook, and Skate Park are all lighting projects currently going on.

Board discussed meeting date and time. Determined that 5:00 p.m. would be a better time to meet.

Motion made to change the meeting time from 5:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for all future Parks and Recreation Board meetings. Roll call: Ayes: Dover, Gerhart, Mills, Rasmussen, Temple, Truex, and Wulf. Nays: None. Absent: Bailey and Robinson.

Mills motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 p.m., Wulf seconded. Roll call: Ayes: Dover, Gerhart, Mills, Rasmussen, Temple, Truex, and Wulf. Nays: None. Absent: Bailey and Robinson.

Next meeting will be on July 20, 2023, 5:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 309 N 5th Street, Norfolk, NE.

Minutes recorded and taken by Jennifer Olson, Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant.