



Parks and Rec Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 20, 2023
5:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Roll call found the following members present: Ann Dover, Patrick Gerhart, Jerrett Mills, Terry Rasmussen, Melissa Temple, Austin Truex, Angie Bailey, and Becki Wulf. Absent: 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, City Engineer Steven Rames, Assistant City Engineer Anna Allen, Engineering Division staff Pat Boyle, Communications Director Nick Stevenson.

Others present: Councilman Webb, Councilman Granquist, and 16 members of the community.

Mills moved, seconded by Bailey to approve the July 20, 2023, agenda. Roll call: All Ayes. Nays: None. Absent: Robinson.

Gerhart moved, seconded by Wulf to approve the June 22, 2023, minutes. Roll call: All Ayes. Nays: None. Absent: Robinson.

Recreation Coordinator, Ron LaMie arrived at 5:05 p.m.

Powell provided an overview of the landscape design for the 1st and Braasch roundabout. Discussion followed. Dover made a motion to recommend approval of the landscape design for the 1st and Braasch roundabout, seconded by Bailey. Roll call: All Ayes. Nays: None. Absent: Robinson.

Parks Board member, Bill Robinson, arrived at 5:07 p.m.

Powell provided the history of the Trail Advisory Board and asked the Board if they would be interested in serving in that capacity or if they feel it should continue as a stand alone board. Discussion followed. Gerhart made a motion to recommend approval of the Parks Advisory Board to take over as the Trail Advisory Board as well, seconded by Dover. Roll call: All Ayes. Nays: None.

Mills asked Powell if they could skip over agenda item #8: discussion for the proposed Parks and Recreation Fees, and first have the monthly supervisor reports. Powell said yes, that was permissible.

Anna Allen left at 5:35 p.m.

Mike Leise provided his monthly report. Tree plantings, preparation of parks for events, well repairs, preparing for dirt work at Johnson Park, repairs at Embrace Park, preparation of pump track at the skate park, removal of equipment at Liberty Bell prior to the build week, and bids for concrete at the Skyview Shop. Board asked if the Liberty Bell equipment would be sold or donated. Leise explained it is hard to remove equipment without damaging it.

Ryan Beed provided his monthly report. Working on completing the bridge at Ta-Ha, pond cleaning, tree clean up after the storm, daily maintenance and field prep. Future projects: two back stops, field four ball padding, water/sewer bids at campground, field five updates, and dog park updates.

Ron LaMie provided his monthly report. Active program updates, summer recreation programs, partnerships, and fall catalog preparation. Trying to push advertising for programs.

Nathan Powell provided his monthly report. Master plan progress, survey, open house, and budget meetings. Responded to questions from the Board.

Powell provided a history of the Parks and Recreation fees and that the item was for discussion only. Powell showed the current fees and the fees he is suggesting and asked the Board for their input. Board discussion followed. Temple asked about swimming scholarships or assistance with the cost of passes, Robinson asked if we had a matrix to determine assistance and LaMie responded that there is not a matrix but they look at how they are paying for other things, e.g. food stamps, Medicaid etc. Mills opened the floor to the public.

Pat Boyle left at 6:24 p.m.

Dave Fauss expressed concern over the fees and was not in support of the increase for fees related to field use and the impact on their teams. Tina Kassmeier, Jeff Borer, Brant Wolff, and Keith Ragland spoke and also expressed concerns with the fee increase.

Gerhart motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 p.m., Rasmussen seconded. Roll call: Ayes: Dover, Gerhart, Mills, Rasmussen, Temple, Truex, Bailey, Robinson and Wulf. Nays: None. Absent: None.

Next meeting will be on August 24, 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.