



## Parks and Rec Board Meeting Minutes

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**Thursday, September 28, 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: Patrick Gerhart, Jerrett Mills, Terry Rasmussen, Melissa Temple, Austin Truex, and Angie Bailey. Absent: Ann Dover and Becki Wulf.

City staff present: Parks & Rec Director Nathan Powell, Assistant Rec Director PJ Evans, Parks Supervisor Ryan Beed, Athletics Supervisor Ron LaMie, Parks & Rec Admin Assistant Jen Olson, Communications Director Nick Stevenson, Admin Assistant Kylee Soderberg.

Temple moved, seconded by Truex to approve the August 29, 2023, agenda. Roll call: All Ayes. Nays: None. Absent: Dover and Wulf.

Bailey moved, seconded by Truex to approve the August 29, 2023, minutes. Roll call: All Ayes. Nays: None. Absent: Dover and Wulf.

Powell presented background information regarding the Skyview Lake dock design and location. The youth fishing dock, along with a picnic table and bench by the stage area, is made possible by a 250K donation from Jack Kohler as part of his last will and testament. Because of his generosity a 24' x 60' composite dock with side railings will be built at Skyview Lake. During the design/build selection committee meeting, a representative from Game Fish and Parks suggested removing any boat access on the dock so it can be enclosed by a railing making it safer for youth. Also, because it is specifically a fishing dock, the dock needs to be about 50' out into the lake so the water depth is greater than three feet. Powell is looking for a recommendation to approve the concept and location. Board discussion followed. Temple asked if different locations would change the cost and Powell said no. Bailey asked about longevity and Powell said maybe fifteen years but not sure and will get an answer before he brings the final design to the Board. Temple suggested lighting on the dock. Rasmussen asked if the horizontal railing is allowed per code and Powell said he will check with our Planning and Zoning division on that and report back. Mills asked if there were other alternatives to the cable railings and Powell said he will check with Planning and Zoning on that as well. Rasmussen asked if Powell expects this project to exceed the 250K budget. Powell said no, the design shown will be within budget by 200K. Temple asked

if there will be seating on the deck; Powell replied yes, they plan on having five benches and there could be additional seating with the removal of boat access. Rasmussen asked if there will be something put on it to commemorate it and Powell said yes. Powell explained that because only one proposal was received, staff will be soliciting bids via a second proposal. That is a 30-day process, so hoping within 60 days he would have a design to present to the Board. Mills asked for a motion to recommend approval of the concept design of the Skyview Fishing Lake Dock. Gerhart moved, seconded by Rasmussen. Roll call: All Ayes. Nays: None. Absent: Dover and Wulf.

Powell provided background information on the location for the final takeout of the North Fork Water Trail. The suggested takeout is on City property located along the Elkhorn River off E Bluff Avenue. There would be a small parking area then a takeout area along the embankment. There will need to be some work to get the embankment accessible because of the steepness of it. Eventually, there will be a small playground on that property as well. Board discussion followed. Rasmussen agreed a takeout is necessary and that is a good location. Mills asked for a motion to recommend approval of the location for the takeout and the parking lot. Bailey moved, seconded by Rasmussen. Roll call: All Ayes. Nays: None. Absent: Dover and Wulf.

Powell presented an updated version of the 2024 Fee Schedule for review and discussion. Changes made from the last fee schedule that was presented: adult softball leagues - conversations have started to bring back partnerships with them like there used to be. The City would have an MOU with the leagues and the fees will be built into the programming. Powell also said staff discussed the fees for AquaVenture and brought down the season pass from \$275 to \$250 and group pass had previously been removed but then was brought back and down from \$45 to \$42. All other fees are staying the same from the last discussion. Board discussion followed. Mills asked about youth teams and their fees. Powell said he did talk to them and they are currently paying \$3/athlete and are trying to get it closer to \$10/\$12 an athlete and that once he showed them what they are paying and what the increase would be they were ok with that. Temple asked about scholarship opportunities or lower pricing for AquaVenture and recreation activities so the facilities and programs are available to all socioeconomic groups. Evans said yes, and that Parks is partnering with the coalition to help with lower income and senior citizen program fees and passes. Temple suggested discounted prices on certain days or evenings. Evans said currently they do half price days on Wednesdays. Evans also responded to a question from a previous meeting regarding the revenue generated from group passes. That amount is \$14,420. Powell suggested running promotions or doing a 10% discount later in the season and look at maybe building that into the fee schedule and seeing what Council thinks. Bailey asked how many pool rentals AquaVenture does a season. Evans responded there was \$4190 dollars from pool rentals and 5-10 is her best guess. Powell asked for Board input on increasing the pricing for the day use cabins at Ta-Ha-Zouka and that those fees have not been increased in 10 years or more. Rasmussen asked what the annual usage numbers were. Powell did not know and said he would get back to him with that. Beed responded

that the Elkhorn Lodge is rented almost every weekend. Temple asked why the Skyview Stage rental was so low. Powell said he did not know.

Supervisor reports were given by Beed, LaMie, Evans, and Powell.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Next meeting will be on October 19 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 309 N 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Norfolk, NE.

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