

**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD***Wednesday, March 3, 2021 – 5:00 p.m.*

WebEx Meeting

MINUTES

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Shannon Crouthers, Chair, Bobbie McClure, Vice-Chair, Rick Eriksen, Marty Tessmer, Danielle Lammon, Nick Kinney, Mike Ely, Steve Sundberg

MEMBERS ABSENT: Angela Zbikowski

OTHERS PRESENT: Brooke Bell, Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space; Joe Sack, Manager of Recreation, Wynter Stieger, Recreation Superintendent and Suzie Jaquith, Recording Secretary.

OTHERS ABSENT: Nancy Freed, Deputy City Manager

I. CALL TO ORDER: By Parks & Recreation Board Chair Crouthers at 5:08 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS: None

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: The Agenda for the March 3, 2021 meeting was approved after a motion was made by Member McClure and seconded by Member Lammon.

IV. ADOPTION OF PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES –
The February 3, 2021 meeting Minutes were approved after a motion was made by Member Kinney and seconded by Member Tessmer.

V. BOARD DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS/REMINDERS

- A. Recreation Centers – Wynter Stieger gave an overview of the recreation centers operations. Wynter manages the five recreation centers – Beck, Central, Expo, Meadowood, and Moorhead. Recreation Centers have been re-opened since July 2020 after being closed due to the pandemic. There have been over 90,000 visits to date since the re-opening. Prior to re-opening, staff had to develop a single booking-based attendance system and cleaning and sanitizing plan in order to follow public health orders. Bookings can be made online, by phone or in person. An antimicrobial coating product called Protect X is being used at all centers and is 99.9% effective against virus, germs, and bacteria. Exercise, gym, fitness classes, running track and pools use are all on a reservation-based admittance. As guidance allows for more activity, the centers will implement more programming options. Expo has been hosting VOA Take Home Meals program and the AARP Tax Aid program and will become a featured Esports Hub. Esports is a growing online gaming platform very popular with youth that has been adopted by the Colorado High School Activity Association (CHSAA). Expo has the needed space to facilitate Esports Leagues and this program will be used to connect with youth that normally don't participate in sports activities in hopes to engage them in some physical activities such as frisbee golf. The contract with Esports is projected to be finalized the first quarter of 2022. Meadowood is being used as a leaning center in partnership with Aurora Public

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Schools. The pandemic has allowed Recreation Division to realize they can save on staffing costs by not having to staff the front desk at centers like Expo and Meadowood where it's now only programs that take place. Beck, Central, and Moorhead will continue to offer opportunities for drop-in use.

- B. Greeting and PROS Update – Brooke Bell, Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department reported the Southeast Recreation Center Groundbreaking ceremony was held on February 18th. Invitations were limited in order to keep the event small and keep everyone safe from COVID. Also, parking was limited at the groundbreaking site off Harvest Road. There are plans for a special Grand Opening Celebration once the recreation center opens. There will be an update/presentation on final design and construction in May or June. She reported Manager Sack and his staff will be working on a comprehensive operations plan for the recreation centers and pools to be implemented once the public health dial moves from yellow to blue. The plan will be reviewed with executive staff in the next few weeks. She complimented staff on the new park and trail map and will pass along members' compliments to staff as well.

VI. BOARD MEMBERS REMARKS

A. Comments from Board Members

- Member Crouthers asked about the construction at the entrance of the Grandview Dog Park. Director Bell replied it is an Aurora Water project and she will follow up with staff to get more details.
- Member McClure asked how the community is reacting to the opening of the Central Recreation Center. Manager Sack replied it's been very well received by the community since the day it opened. It is visited 3 to 1 in comparison to the other Aurora recreation centers. Current COVID restrictions have limited it from being a full-service recreation center but that will change as restrictions ease throughout the year.
- Member Tessmer requested a presentation at a future board meeting on the Forestry Division services offered to the community including the memorial tree program and the park tree re-planting plan. Manager Sack will coordinate with the Manager of Forestry to schedule a presentation for one of the upcoming board meetings.
- Member McClure reported there is a radio station called Trees FM that plays forest and nature sounds.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. Wednesday, April 7, 2021 – Virtual meeting – Webex

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT** – Member Lammon made a motion to adjourn and Member Kinney seconded. The motion passed at 6:53 p.m.

 (Apr 12, 2021 11:34 PDT)

Shannon Crouthers, Chair,
Parks & Recreation Board


Suzie Jaquith, Recording Secretary

ADOPTED _____

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Final Audit Report

2021-04-12

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