



PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, July 7, 2021 – 5:00 p.m.

WebEx Meeting

MINUTES

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Shannon Crouthers, Chair; Bobbie McClure, Vice-Chair; Rick Eriksen, Marty Tessmer, Mike Ely, Angela Zbikowski

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Brooke Bell, Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space; Joe Sack, Manager of Recreation Services; John Wesolowski, Manager of Parks and Forestry; and Lauren Morales, Recording Secretary

OTHERS ABSENT: None

I. CALL TO ORDER: By Parks & Recreation Board Chair Crouthers at 5:09 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS: None

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: The Agenda for the July 7, 2021 meeting was approved after a motion was made by Member Zbikowski and seconded by Member Ely.

IV. ADOPTION OF PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES –
The June 2, 2021 meeting Minutes were approved after a motion was made by Member Tessmer and seconded by Member Eriksen.

V. BOARD DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS/REMINDERS

A. John Wesolowski, Manager of Parks and Forestry, gave an update on Turf Conversion included in the Water Efficiency Strategy. He shared a slideshow presentation.

- Water Efficiency Strategy includes water allocations and budgeting based on plant watering requirements. A computerized, central controlled irrigation system is used to manage water usage and can also detect breaks and leaks.
- Irrigation systems are aging and are on the capital improvement list.
- Turf conversion is also used in the water efficiency strategy by converting irrigated turf to native plant material requiring minimal watering.
- 5.57 acres at the Alameda & I-225 interchange is being converted from irrigated turf to native plant material. The water savings will equate to 2.5 million gallons per year.
- The area at Airport Boulevard & I-70 is also being converted to native plant material, saving approximately 2.14 million gallons per year or the equivalent water usage of 60 households per year.
- The challenge of converting to native plant material is it may take 2 to 3 years for plant material to become fully developed. Public perception is also a challenge as some prefer the look of irrigated bluegrass. Staff work to identify areas where there is not much public interface to implement turf conversion and educate public on the benefits of native areas.

NOTE: By simple majority vote, Board may re-establish Agenda order. Quorum is reached with five members.



- Cost savings can be realized as soon as 3 years following the implementation of a native area.
 - Member Tessmer asked what type of native grasses are being planted. John replied a standard native mix is used when planning new parks and doing refurbishing. Blue grama and buffalo grass are two types of native grasses included in the standard mix. Plant material is chosen based on site location, soil conditions, and aesthetics.
 - Member Tessmer asked about irrigation required to maintain native areas. John replied watering of native areas is programmed through the centralized irrigation system to meet the needs of the plant.
 - Member Tessmer asked if the irrigation schedule could be adjusted at Sagebrush and Meadowood Park so early morning walkers are not affected. John replied there is a set window of time to irrigate fully but would check into adjusting programming at those parks.
 - Member Ericksen asked if there was a plan in place to minimize trash that collects in native areas. John replied yes, a contracted labor force, called Ready to Work, is used to keep up on trash collection in parks, including native areas.
 - Member McClure gave kudos to one of the forestry staff, Anthony, who removed a dead city tree located in the easement of her property. She thanked forestry crews for planting 14 new trees in Triangle park.
- B. Vacant Board Member Updates – Joe Sack, Manager of Recreation.
- Manager Sack reported there are three applicants and interviews will be scheduled within the next couple of weeks. Advertising for vacant positions is being done through multiple channels.
- C. PRAB Bylaws Review Update - Joe Sack, Manager of Recreation
- Manager Sack reported staff has been gathering information from the city clerk's office to ensure proper procedures are being followed and there is a full understanding of the city's ordinances as it relates to boards and commissions. A meeting will be scheduled with the Bylaws Review sub-committee, Members McClure, Eriksen and Zbikowski, to review bylaws and any suggested changes.
- D. PROS Update – Brooke Bell, Director of PROS
- PROS Update – Brooke Bell, Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department reported on upcoming events. Staff did an excellent job on the Fourth of July Spectacular event. PROS hosted the annual national Firecracker women's softball tournament during the same weekend with 15,000 athletes, over 1,000 teams participating and 500 college scouts in attendance. The event was a success even with rainy weather and fields were in excellent condition thanks to parks operations and management staff. Splash and Scoop ice cream social events will be offered at various parks on July 21st and 22nd. Global Fest will be a virtual event on August 1st. The

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leisure pool at Central Recreation Center re-opened after being closed for three weeks while waiting on parts.

Park Lane pool renovation project has begun. The hope is to have pool open before the season. Member Tessmer asked if the new Delta variance of the Covid virus is a factor in decision making for future social gatherings and events. Brooke responded not at this time; however, she is in contact with Tri-County Health and keeps up on the latest developments. Brooke responded to questions about the June 21st Study Session presentation to City Council concerning PROS unfunded Capital Improvement Master Plan (CIMP). The second half of the City Council presentation is scheduled for July 19th.

VI. BOARD MEMBERS REMARKS

A. Comments from Board Members

- Member Eriksen remarked he enjoyed the Fourth of July Spectacular.
- Member Ely asked how lifeguard hiring was going. Manager Sack responded hiring has been slow. The average is 12 lifeguards hired per month. Brooke added the lifeguard shortage is experienced not just locally but nationally as well.
- Member McClure asked when in-person meetings will resume. Brooke responded discussions are taking place with city management, but a decision has not been made.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS

A. Wednesday, August 4, 2021 – Virtual meeting – Webex

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – Member Zbikowski made a motion to adjourn and Member Eriksen seconded. The motion passed at 6:08 p.m.

Shannon E. Crouthers
Shannon E. Crouthers (Sep 1, 2021 18:32 MDT)

Sep 1, 2021

Shannon Crouthers, Chair;
Parks & Recreation Board

Suzie Jaquith

Suzie Jaquith, Recording Secretary

ADOPTED _____






PRAB July 7 2021 Minutes_final_sj

Final Audit Report

2021-09-02

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