

**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD***Wednesday, May 4, 2022 – 5:00 p.m.*

WebEx Meeting

**MINUTES**

**PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bobbie McClure, Rick Eriksen, Marty Tessmer, Angela Zbikowski, Sydney Futrell, Robert Armstrong

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Bryan Taylor, Andre Hickman, Mike Ely

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Brooke Bell, Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department; Joe Sack, Manager of Recreation Services; Wynter Stieger, Recreation Facilities Superintendent; Suzie Jaquith, Administrative Supervisor

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** By Joe Sack, Manager of Recreation Services, at 5:05 p.m.
- II. INTRODUCTIONS:** Newest member, Robert Armstrong, was introduced to board members and staff and current members introduced themselves.
- III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** The Agenda for the May 4, 2022, meeting was approved after a motion was made by Member Zbikowski and seconded by Member Tessmer.
- IV. ADOPTION OF PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES –**  
The April 6, 2022, meeting Minutes were approved after a motion was made by Member Eriksen and seconded by Member McClure.
- V. BOARD DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS/REMINDERS**
  - A. Joe Sack, Recreation Manager, gave an update on the Chair and Vice-Chair Election.
    - Joe announced Sydney Futrell and Angela Zbikowski as candidates running for both seats.
    - Votes were collected from members and tallied by Recording Secretary.
    - Sydney Futrell was elected as new Chair and Angela Zbikowski as new Vice-Chair.
  - B. Wynter Stieger, Recreation Facilities Superintendent, gave an update on Recreation Center Operations.
    - There are three types of facilities: Recreation Centers, Community Centers, and Natatorium/ Pools. Each facility is programmed by either drop-in use or scheduled use.
    - There are 6 Recreation Centers: Moorhead, Beck, Central, Expo, Meadowood and Southeast (opening 2023). Operation hours vary depending on location and range from 6:00 A.M. to 8: 30 P.M, daily. The centers' employee full-time staff include Recreation Supervisors, Facility Supervisors, Senior Facility Specialists, Facility Specialists, Facility Assistants, Operation Maintenance Workers. In addition, there are between 10 to 20 variable hour employees that assist in facility operations.
    - Over the last 2 years during the pandemic, staff has had to adjust frequently and have done a fantastic job working through staff shortages and the operational variants. Facilities are returning to more normal schedules and are close to 100% operational.

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



- Revenue totals for Beck, Central and Moorhead from January – April of 2022 were \$418,000 compared to \$150,000 in January – April of 2021.
- Visits (drop-in and guest membership scans) from January – April of 2022 were 90,000 compared to 40,600 in January – April of 2021. Member Tessmer asked if there was one facility that makes the most revenue. Wynter responded, the Aurora Sports Park with field rentals. The other big revenue maker are the centers themselves with membership sales.
- Central Recreation Center currently programs approximately 145 hours per week. Open drop-ins make up the rest of the center’s use. Amenities include fitness rooms/equipment, basketball gym, pool, waterslide, wave pool, rental rooms, running track, escape room, and training kitchen to name a few.
- Moorhead Recreation Center currently programs approximately 93 hours per week. Open drop-ins make up the rest of the center’s use. The center was renovated in 2017 and is loved and highly used by the surrounding community. Amenities include the largest of all the centers basketball gym, pool, multi-purpose rental rooms, fitness equipment, training kitchen and park and playground.
- Beck Recreation Center currently programs approximately 90 hours per week. Open drop-ins make up the rest of the center’s use. Amenities include the largest multi-purpose room of all the centers which are perfect to host large rental events, a pool, which is the warmest of all the pools and best suited for therapeutics, basketball court, racquetball courts, fitness equipment, and Springhill Golf Course.
- Meadowood Community Center has always been a scheduled only facility and currently programs 83 hours per week. The center hosts the Meadowood Preschool, gymnastics, youth dance and summer camp programs. Amenities include multi-purpose dance rooms, gym, and two basketball hoops.
- Expo Community Center currently programs 46 hours per week and is highly utilized for scheduled programs such as cooking classes, dog obedience training and youth dance. Fitness classes plan to return once instructors are hired.
- Staff at all centers apply an antimicrobial coating product to high touch surfaces once a month to help protect against viruses and germs.
- Member Eriksen asked how well staffed the facilities are. Wynter responded all facilities are close to being fully staffed with full-time employees. There is one custodial position open at Central Recreation Center.
- Member Eriksen asked if staff will be transferred from existing recreation centers to Southeast Recreation Center once it opens. Wynter responded the new positions will be posted and both internal staff and outside applicants will be able to apply. Brooke Bell, Director of PROS, followed up by stating the department is down more than 20% in full-time staff and significantly down in filling contingent positions, particularly lifeguards. It’s highly unlikely that pools will be open on a full-schedule this summer. Staff shortages are an issue felt not just by PROS, but by all organizations in the metro area. Recruitment for full-time, leadership positions for Southeast Recreation Center and Fieldhouse will start approximately four to five months prior to opening date.



- Member Tessmer asked if there were plans to add or drop programming in the future. Wynter replied staff are always looking for ways to be innovative and expand on the programming for the community and to contact Joe Sack, Recreation Manager, with ideas. Something added this year was the expansion of the registration process to allow citizens to walk-in to any center and register for recreation classes.
  - Member McClure asked if the Central Recreation Center had a kitchen and were cooking classes offered there. Wynter responded yes. Bobbie asked if the Facility Supervisor also manages the outside property of the Central Recreation Center. Brooke responded Parks Operations and Management Division will manage the outside park property.
  - Member McClure asked if Moorhead Recreation has drop-in activities for teens. Wynter responded yes, staff are currently working on the summer youth programming. Brooke added staff are in the process of looking into concepts of free drop-in programming for summer.
  - Member McClure asked if the recreation centers will offer free breakfast and lunch for children. Joe Sack responded breakfast is offered in partnership with Aurora Public Schools during the school year. Staff will gauge the needs of the community to determine free meal programs outside of the school year. There will be approximately five sites around Aurora that will be providing meals for youth. Joe will provide an update on the program at the next meeting. Lunch and snacks are provided to participants in the summer camp program.
- D. Brooke Bell, Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department, gave a PROS Update
- Brooke reported Aurora Reservoir will have free access May 6, 7 and 8<sup>th</sup> Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. This is in association with the Governor's Celebrate Colorado endeavor.
  - Annual Colorado Remembers event will take place Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at the Colorado Freedom Memorial. Event includes a free pancake breakfast at 8:00 A.M. followed by a ceremony at 10:00 A.M.
  - Staff will present on upcoming special events at the next board meeting.
  - Central Recreation Center is located on a 20-acre property and approximately 12 acres of the site has been designated for a future community park. There was an initial open house to gather public input. Design and Construction is scheduled for next year. Some standard requirements for a community park are vaulted restrooms, athletic fields, courts, play structures, and parking lots. During the design phase, staff will be looking at ways to reduce the water footprint and construct a park that includes natural areas and possible synthetic materials.
  - PROS system-wide Master Plan project is underway. The project will involve significant public engagement with focus on park, open space and recreation equity across the system and identify gaps in service in all areas including parks, trails, and recreation centers. Then will establish priorities based on public input. The PROS Master Plan is a yearlong project and staff, and a consulting firm will be reaching out to engage with the board within the next few months. PROS will then embark on a strategic plan that utilizes information from the PROS Master Plan.



- A budgeted dog park study is planned this year.
- Member Eriksen reported he attended the Central Recreation Center Park Open House and some of the comments from attendees were that they did not know about the meeting. An attendee also asked if the water bill could include any future public meetings. Brooke responded postcards were mailed to homes within a certain radius of the recreation center and future park. Another attendee asked if Xeriscape classes could be offered at recreation centers, not just the Aurora Municipal Center. Brooke responded the Xeriscape classes are programmed by Aurora Water and the reason classes are held at the Aurora Municipal Center is because there is a demonstration Xeriscape Garden on site. She will ask the question of Aurora Water.
- Member McClure asked how the Earth Day event at Aurora Reservoir went. Brooke responded there were around 150 people that took advantage of the free access that day and there were about 20 volunteers that participated in the project to wrap trees along 1 mile of shoreline to protect from beavers. She thinks, had the weather been more pleasant, there would have been more participation.

**VI. BOARD MEMBERS REMARKS**

A. Comments from Board Members

- Member Futrell asked for an update on the Master Plan process and if the consulting firm would be speaking with the board soon. Brooke responded she will follow up with more information.
- Member McClure reported she participated in line dancing at the Aurora Center for Active Adults and there will be another event in August. There is also a free pickleball demonstration on June 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 P.M. at the Aurora Center for Active Adults. She witnessed teens entering through the construction fence surrounding Hoffman Heights Park playground. She suggested checking the fence for holes and more police patrol of the park. Brooke asked staff to provide the Ranger Office phone number to the members. Joe Sack will follow up.

**VII. FUTURE MEETINGS**

A. Wednesday, June 1, 2022 - Virtual meeting – WebEx

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT** – Member Tessmer made a motion to adjourn, and Member Zbikowski seconded. The motion passed at 6:21 p.m.

 Jun 6, 2022  
Sydney Futrell (Jun 6, 2022 14:41 MDT)  
 Sydney Futrell, Chair;  
 Parks & Recreation Board

*Suzie Jaquith*  
 Suzie Jaquith, Administrative Supervisor

ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_

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






# PRAB Minutes May 4, 2022\_final\_bb

Final Audit Report

2022-06-06

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