

## **MINUTES: PARK BOARD MEETING – FEBRUARY 1, 2024**

**Date and time:** 2/1/2024 5:15 p.m.  
**Present:** Rick Shiverdecker, Jerra Hedges, Cecil Brandt, Wayne Bill, Brenna Kemp, Michael Shindler, Council Liaison Bob Washington, Councilwoman Lauren Nelson, Mayor Steve Myers, Parks and Rec Director Clay Caswell, Assistant Parks and Rec Director Tara O'Shea, Chief Financial Officer Dustin Dougherty, and City Clerk Kathie Ratliff.  
**Absent:** Shane Clines, Larry Doyle, Robert Wilson, and Director of Administration Courtney Doyle,  
**Location:** Legends Rec-Plex

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER.**

Rick Shiverdecker called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Roll call was noted and a request from the Clerk to amend the agenda with two new business items (Fees & Holidays) was made. The items were added to the agenda.

#### **2. COMMENTS FROM VISITORS**

There were none.

#### **3. MINUTES**

**Decision:** Motion was made by Brenna Kemp and Seconded by Cecil Brandt to approve the minutes for the January 4, 2024 meeting. All in favor, three absent (Clines, Doyle, and Wilson).

#### **4. REPORTS**

CFO Dougherty presented a comprehensive overview, including financial figures through December.

#### **5. OLD BUSINESS**

##### Pickleball Courts

The Park Board thoroughly discussed the pickleball court request from the previous session. Parks Director Caswell recognized the positive growth of the pickleball community but also addressed concerns raised by board members, particularly related to pickleball membership numbers and the financial implications associated with the proposed project. During the discussion, concerns were raised about citizen frustration if the pickleball project were to be prioritized over the construction of a pool. The meeting ended with an understanding that there may be room for future discussions and considerations.

#### **6. NEW BUSINESS**

##### Carver Park Improvement Discussion

There was much conversation about the rehabilitation of Carver Park. The proposed improvements include adding new basketball courts which would then move the court to the southside with a full-length layout and two side courts, introducing an inclusive playground, a splashpad, installing new drinking fountains, improving trail access, and creating a new parking area. Recognizing the need for careful and strategic planning, Caswell emphasized the initiation of a long-term plan to provide guidance for the project's direction.

During the conversation, Caswell shared that the city does not actually own McBride Field. It is on lease from Harbison-Walker for a nominal fee of \$1 per year, along with another leased area on one side of the park.

The discussion turned to the difficulties presented by the nearby railroad tracks when integrating the proposed trail expansion. Caswell shared ideas and thoughts gathered from conversations with the engineering department. He said there are various grant options but stressed the significance of having a well-rounded strategy to aid in streamlining the process of applying for grants.

Councilman Washington asked for cost predictions specifically for the splashpad. Caswell said projected costs are expected to be between \$150,000 and \$200,000.

**Decision:** Motion was made by Shiverdecker and Seconded by Kemp to proceed with a recommendation to Council to approve grant searches for the noted projects.

During the discussion, Caswell emphasized the importance of thoroughly checking lease agreements and all cost variables before moving forward with any planned projects. Councilwoman Nelson is hopeful about the potential impact of Carver Park on Ward 4 and wants to see it being used to its fullest potential.

Shiverdecker called for a vote and all members in attendance were in favor (Clines, Doyle, and Wilson absent).

#### Golf Cart Fees

The discussion revolved around a \$10 private cart owner fee. Shindler recommended registering personal golf carts for a nominal fee each year not only to invest in the community but to ensure public safety.

Caswell said that annual membership fees expire in March. If the \$10 fee is removed, the cart registration process could be discussed. Shiverdecker suggested moving the discussion to the next meeting. Caswell agreed and stated that the fee is not waived at this time, but the pricing policy is on hold.

#### Holiday Openings

Councilwoman Nelson brought up the subject of the city's building closures on minor holidays after receiving a suggestion from another Councilmember to keep park department facilities open on days like Presidents Day or Columbus Day (at the discretion of Caswell). Councilman Washington proposed reduced hours on those days and suggested using part-time staff. Caswell agreed to give it a try in 2024 and see how things work out. The board agreed that major holidays would not be included in this plan.

### **7. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The next Park Board meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2024, at 5:15 p.m. The meeting date will change for this month as staff will be away at a conference.

### **8. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Decision** Motion was made by Mike Shindler and Seconded by Jerra Hedges to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 p.m. All in favor, three absent (Clines, Doyle, Wilson).

Respectively submitted,  
/s/Kathie Ratliff  
City Clerk