

City of Evansville
Park & Recreation Board Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 20th, 2021, 6:45 p.m.

Due to COVID 19 this meeting will not be held in person. To attend the meeting virtually please go to: meet.google.com/cke-iazy-twx or call: +1 567-236-0714 and enter pin: 228 747 609#

When you are not speaking, please mute your microphone or telephone to reduce background noise.

Copies of the packet and/or agenda are available at
http://www.ci.evansville.wi.gov/city_government/public_agendas_minutes/park_board.php

Minutes

1. Call to order

Chairperson Morrison called the meeting to order at 6:45pm

2. Roll call

Joy Morrison, Mike Pfeil, Jim Espinosa, Gene Prudhon & Matt Pooch, (Sue Merritt 6:52pm). Absent was Lyman Fuson. Also in attendance: Jason Sargent, Leah Hurtley, Angie Olsen, Chad Renly, Jason Valerius & Curt Nyhus.

3. Motion to approve the agenda

Espinosa/Pruden Motion Passed 5-0

4. Motion to waive the reading of the April 20th, 2021 minutes and approve them as printed.

Espinosa/Pruden Motion Passed 5-0

5. Citizen appearances other than agenda items listed

None

6. New business

A. Boy Scouts overnight event

Curt Nyhus began by saying that in previous years they have used the upper shelter with tents. Curt asked the Committee if it would be feasible to for them to have an overnight camping trip this year. Curt stated that in past years this has been an annual event but was canceled last year due to COVID. The group is looking at the event taking place on May 22nd. Morrison asked if they will have a fire and if it would be contained. Curt said that yes, it would be contained and would be out prior to everyone being asleep. Curt stated that they are looking at having around 12 Scouts plus one parent per Scout for a total of 24. Pooch said that the size seemed manageable and was consistent to other events that have been approved.

Pooch made a motion to allow the event which was seconded by Prudhon, motion passed 6-0

B. Mark Mellecker / BASE shelter rental

Morrison stated that BASE is looking to have a disc golf tournament as well as a movie night at one of the shelters sometime in June but a specific date had not been selected yet. Renly said that he had talked with Mark, he had a few questions regarding power at the various shelters. Renly told him that any of the shelters would be able to fit his needs.

7. Park's report

Renly stated that Anderson was not able to attend but had provided his report.

- Anderson is still working on getting the Wind Prairie Park burnt off.
- Most of the bathrooms are open. Renly said that the upper bathroom had a lateral line leak that needed to be repaired and would cost approximately \$4,000.
- The grass is growing and mowing has begun.
- Anderson had in his notes that there were several groups that were looking for projects in the park and was working with those groups.
- Anderson was talking with a Mr. Hurda in regards to grants that may be available. Renly stated that he wasn't sure what the grants were related to but would talk with Anderson to see what they were.

A. Lake Leota Dam repair – (place holder)

Renly said that the new estimate based on honed in figures and the sound testing that was done came to a total new estimate of \$205,300. Renly stated that \$80,000 would be paid for by the DNR grant that was awarded and the remaining \$125,300 will be paid for by the City which currently has \$150,000 budgeted. Renly said that he was proposing taking out the alternate bid for the interior second wall that is currently in good condition. This will help reduce overall costs and leave some additional funds for any additional damage or scope creep that may occur during construction. Morrison had asked the difference in cost of what was budgeted. Renly stated that the budget for both the City and the Grant were determined prior to the grant being awarded and was based off of the original rough estimates that were provided by Jewel & Associates of \$300,000 which would have been split 50-50 between the City and the DNR. Renly stated that the plans and estimates will be going to the DNR soon for review and approval. Morrison asked Sargent if there was a possibility to use infrastructure funds toward these kinds of projects. Sargent responded saying that currently the information that's available is not defined well enough to be certain at this point. Prudhon asked Renly how much the lake would need to be drained down for the construction to take place. Renly stated that the lake would only need to come down a few inches, just enough to prevent water from coming over the edges of the spill ways. The draw down would be done by the use of the dam's sluice gate. Morrison asked when the project would be

completed. Renly said that he expected the project to be completed sometime around October.

B. 2021 creek walls and 2nd duck house (place holder)

Renly mentioned that there were not any significant updates for the creeks walls but mentioned that both projects (2nd duck pond & remaining creek wall) could be expected to continue to move forward with the use of the existing funding.

C. Park security & internet (place holder)

Renly stated that he would be taking this item off on the next agenda with Committee approval. The cameras are installed and operational. Anderson also has the laptop and hotspot and will be able to monitor the cameras. Committee had no objections to removing the topic from the agenda.

D. Dog park update (place holder)

Renly said that the dog park went to the Planning Committee and they decided that it would need to go to public hearing which would happen on May 4th.

i. Dog park rules

Poock said that the rules look good and asked if the rules were complied from various places. Renly stated that the rules were selected from various other dog parks and he adapted them to the City of Evansville's park. Prudhon asked about the permit language that was in the rules. Renly responded that the Municipal Services Committee wanted to look into the option of adding a user-based permit fee of \$10. The fee would go toward the higher cost of building as well as the continued maintenance costs of the park. The fee would be in addition to the normal license fee. Morrison and Poock expressed concern over the ability to monitor the use of the park, they anticipate people from outside the community driving by and wanting to use the park. Sargent added that implementing an additional permitting process may not be easy. Poock asked if a one-time fee could be looked at. Prudhon asked if the existing license fee could be increased to help with the additional costs. Mayor Hurtley said that we should not be raising the fees across the board and it should be kept as a user-based fee. Mayor Hurtley also said that having a permit would be a good way to have a database of owners in case of instances where dogs fight. This would give the City the ability to track owners and their dogs in those cases. He also stated that a vehicle and license plate number should be given as well. Leah Hurtley said that not all of the money coming from the licenses goes to the City, part of the fee goes to the county. Renly suggested that we have time to make a decision on this so he will keep in on the agenda and will discuss again at the following Park Board meeting.

E. Pickleball update

Renly said that Public Works has ordered a pickleball stencil for the courts to put the lines down for the new pickleball lines. Renly also said that he was contacted by a Julie Fiebig, a pickleball equipment dealer who has offered to supply

equipment and instruction for 1-2 pickleball demonstrations / clinics for Evansville residents who wish to learn how to play.

8. Pool report

A. Leak/paint repairs discussion

Renly reported that the staff had partially filled the pool and monitored its levels. The pool lost an average of 12 inches of water per 24-hour period. It's not currently clear where the water is going. Renly said that his best guess at the moment was that the leak is somewhere between the main inlet to the pool drain and the main valve. Pook said they he would like to at least see the issue diagnosed and have the drain pipe scoped to see if we are able to determine the cause of the leak. Pfeil agreed and said that we should do what we can to determine if it's something that's fixable especially with the pool being closed last year due to COVID. Olson stated that she would like to see the pool open this year and added that since she started working at the pool it has always lost this amount of water. Morrison mentioned that the City has already spent a lot of money on the pool and how do we justify the additional costs to repair. Mayor Hurtley added that we don't know where the leak is or where the water is going. He doesn't believe Council would be willing to spend anymore money on a pool that's going to be demolished. He also added that since we don't know where the water is going it could have the potential of creating an unseen hazardous situation. Morrison directed Olson to obtain an estimate to scope the line and to proceed if reasonable. Leah Hurtley said that the average water utility bill in 2019 was \$1,698 per month which was a 300% increase over the previous 3 years.

B. Pool opening discussion

The possibility of the pool opening will be discussed more once additional information regarding the pools condition is obtained.

9. Old business

A. Park & pool design update (place holder)

Sargent began by saying that the progress has been moving forward with plans to have a small group narrow down the list for Council selection. 10 proposals were sent out to everyone by email to review. Morrison looked at the proposals and stated that Sargent did a good job of creating an apples-to-apples comparison of them.

B. 2021 Baseball schedule (Place holder)

Leah Hurtley stated that they have received a record 29 sponsors. They currently have 130 registrations but are in need of more coaches. So far only 8 have signed up. Leah began to offer a deal that if you were willing to coach the City would waive the registration fees for their child to play.

i. Discussion and possible motion for instances of fee waiver requests

Leah Hurtley said that she would like to stay consistent with who pays reservation fees. She would like to see any requests for fee waivers to go through the Park Board to be approved. Currently the Jays have a permit to sell beer and have use of the press box. According to the current ordinance they should be paying a fee which historically they have not. Sargent stated that we are inconsistent with how we charge and need to look through the ordinances to see what needs to be changed. The City will need to continue its past practices for this year while we look to see what changes will need to be made. We can then make those adjustments to be implemented for next year's reservations. Morrison and Pooch said that they are ok with waving fees for nonprofit organizations now. If any others wish to have their fees waived, they would need to come before the Park Board. Mayor Hurtley said that if Leah has any concern or doubt regarding a specific situation, she can bring it to the Park Board for a decision.

C. Adopt a Park Program (place holder)

Pooch began by saying that they have begun putting more information about the program on Facebook and people have been spreading the word about it. Pooch stated that they already have several people and groups that have signed up for various areas of the parks. Pooch would like to know about providing signage saying who has adopted this piece of a park project. Renly will look into options for creating signage.

10. Other

Morrison brought up the reservation software that Olson had sent out to create an online source for pool reservations that could potentially also be used for other uses like park pavilions and baseball registrations. The cost of the software per the information that Olson had sent out was \$4,200. Sargent stated that the software the Economic Development Dept had implemented can be difficult and extensive as they have been working on its implementation for 6 months.

Pooch requested a question be added to the minutes regarding the dog park. Pooch wanted to know if the dog park permit fee could just be added as an option onto the license fee form?

11. Meeting reminder:

- A. Regular meeting on May 18th, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

12. Motion to adjourn

Pfeil / Pooch Motion Passed 8:23 PM