

Recreation Advisory Board
June 20, 2019
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Nic Palmer, Alan Swank, Travis Gatling, Brandon Thompson, Shauna Switzer

City Staff: Andrew Chiki

Guests: No guests

Call to Order: The June meeting of the Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:32 pm with Alan Swank serving as chair in the absence of Chair, Mark Ferguson.

Introduction: Shauna Switzer was introduced as the newest appointed member of the advisory board.

Approval of Minutes: Brandon made a motion to accept the May meeting minutes with Travis seconding. The motion carried without dissent.

Old Business

11 Month pool review, MSA/Gutknecht

- Andrew discussed that there were 33 items that were listed on the 11 month pool review. Many of the items have been addressed, but there is still a little ways to go before everything will be complete. Gutknecht has been on site as well as Patterson Pools.
- The City is awaiting a final report from MSA and Gutknecht on the items once everything is clear.

NW Bike Path Spur Bridge

- Andrew reported that he did not have any new update on this.

Monthly Calendar

- Andrew reported that it is in progress, and should have a calendar for next month.

Sandlot

- This item was discussed in tandem with W. State Street Park under *New Business*

New Business

July is Parks & Recreation Month

- Andrew shared that Parks & Recreation month's theme this year is Game On! and that the department is participating in a number of ways. This includes: a membership promotion, games and activities at the pool on July 3rd, and program areas participating with activities in the theme.
- Alan requested that the promos be up on the sign out front.

Arts West After School Program

- Andrew reported that there are 18 families tentatively signed up with interest for an after school program at Arts West.
- There are still a number of questions to work through related to licensure and exemptions.

- The program as it stands now is being designed to use a punch card system for processing payment.

No Mow Areas

- The department is looking into strategically using no mow areas in some of the parks. This is being looked at in conjunction with some other groups. The idea is to promote pollinators and also lower costs associated with mowing.
- Alan suggested that Athens In Bloom be brought into the conversation on this if it hasn't already.
- Brandon would like to know if there are specific areas that are already picked out. Andrew responded that he wasn't sure that there are yet and that it is in the discussion phase right now.

Farmer's Market on City Property

- On June 1, Terri sent an email to Alan from Paul Tomcho of the Athens Farmers Market. The email detailed that there will be a visit from PPS to look at the site (E. State Dog Park) and discuss the farmers market with neighborhood groups.
- Alan read the farmers market ordinance.
 - This brings up some interesting issues such as impact fees for people making a profit. Alan also would want to know if the site becomes paved, how will that impact water runoff?
- Alan suggested that we discuss this in detail at the fall retreat and that the board should get all the information they can.
- Nic shared that he thinks it is a shame to remove a green space and upset another user group. He also asked if the placement of the farmers market is specific to East State Street.
- Andrew responded that the ordinance does say that the farmers market site is located in the East State Street park complex.

West State Street Park (Rules Enforcement) & Sandlot (Old Business)

- Alan read the rules for West State Street Park as written on the sign. Under rule 3 it says no parking in the grass. He was at West State Street and saw a Sandlot tournament down there. People were parked all over the grass. If we have published rules, are we going to selectively enforce them?
- Nic was also down there and saw at least 50 cars parked along the bikepath.
- Brandon stated that we need to have a public discussion about Sandlot. It is ridiculous that there are different rules for different spaces and groups. Something needs to change. If he has to pay to use Arts West for Brew Week, how can other groups get a pass?
- Shauna shared that all sports should be treated equally.
- Travis brought up that if there are rules, who can enforce them>

- Alan would like for when Andrew has a conversation with Terri that this needs to be detailed sooner than later.
- Brandon stated that it has to be now.
- Nic had several questions: because of the lack of space , has there been thought about other land spaces?
- Alan would like for the board and department to do an outdoor space audit and needs. When we have our retreat we need to discuss rules, space use, audit, etc.
- Brandon shared that the board can help with getting information. We need to see consistency with all spaces.

Staff Report

ACC Operation/Programs/Pool

- Andrew gave an update on operations and shared the cash distribution to date. The pool numbers are strong, but the memberships at the community center is down about \$10,000 compared to this time last year. The Game On! promotion is a first shot at addressing this. The day passes are up though and there are a lot more basketball players in the evenings.
- Brandon noticed that there has been a lot of basketball going on.
- Shauna also mentioned futsal.
- Brandon would like to see more advertising of basketball, pickleball, futsal, etc. There should also be promotion of a more structured open basketball time.

Arts West Maintenance Operations Projects

- OVST is finishing up with practices this week at Arts West
- There has been some discussion about rotating Fall soccer down to West State Street to give the fields at the soccer complex a rest.

Other Items

July Recess

- Nic made a motion with Brandon seconding that there should not be a recess in July and to change the date to July 25th at 5:30 pm with a limited agenda of discussing the upcoming retreat. The motion carried with full support of those present.

Retreat

- Nic believes that partnerships should be a key piece to the retreat.
- Alan agreed, and stated that the goal should be about how to share spaces
- Brandon stated that this speaks to the creation of a “friends of” group

Racial Equity Task Force

- Brandon brought up that he has been meeting with the racial equity task force and they are looking to do an event at the pool on August 1st. Andrew shared that he can look into if that date is open from 4-7 pm.

Nic made a motion to adjourn with Travis seconding. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.