

**MINUTES**  
**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
**JULY 11, 2023**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tim Faver, Don Heinonen, Tonya Prim, and Bethany Wesley

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tom Anderson, Kristine Bommersbach, Mike Cronin

**COUNCIL & BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:** Gwenia Fiskevold Gould

**CITY STAFF & OTHERS:** Marcia Larson and Lolly Randall

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Bethany Wesley called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA:**

**Motion by Heinonen, seconded by Faver, to Approve Agenda. Motion Carried**

**APPROVAL OF JUNE 13, 2023 MEETING MINUTES:**

**Motion by Faver, seconded by Heinonen, to Approve the June 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes as written. Motion carried.**

**DIAMOND POINT BUILDING DISCUSSION**

Duane Biehn, from BSU, is working on getting Marcia a renting revenue report on the Outdoor Program Center (OPC). They usually have two staff working anytime the OPC is open. Reviewed rentals and revenue of other park facilities. City Council approved the short term OPC lease with BSU that goes through the end of September.

Discussion was held regarding what the future is for the OPC. Discussed some of the suggestions that are in the strategic plan. Fishing pier and gathering spaces were some of the ideas found in the plan.

Suggestion was made to have another meeting with BSU to see if they have plans for future rental of the OPC. Discussed the idea of using it as another rental spot and having it available for the Kids in Motion camp and allowing BSU to use it the week in August that they have requested. The rentals at the Tourist Information Center (TIC) are going really well and there may be the potential to extend the rentals to the OPC. One idea was to have a food eatery in the OPC. Once BSU has their equipment out of the OPC, the Parks Department can get the building ready for spring. Recreation could use the OPC building for camps and it could be rented out to the public on the weekends. There may be a way to do rentals while camp is going on and there would be set ours if amenity rentals were done out of the building.

Larson explained that park facility rental revenue goes into the general fund as a line item. The amenity rentals go into the recreation budget. The annual rent BSU was paying for the OPC went

into a Diamond Point Park maintenance budget. With that coming to an end, Commissioners suggested putting all of the dollars from facility rentals directly into the parks maintenance budget.

The Commissioners all agreed that the OPC should have city use. Larson will get costs for a fishing pier and start putting together a plan of how they would use the building along with the maintenance needs and bring it back to the Commissioners.

Larson will reach out to BSU and let the Commissioners know if they are interested in meeting again and if so, Larson will send meeting invite to all Commissioners for whoever can attend.

Larson explained that a fishing pier located at Diamond Point Park has been requested for several years. The city currently has a dock that is for the boat access so people cannot fish from this dock. The fishing dock would go on the same side as the boat access and that may also inhibit swimming on that side.

### **SHADE STRUCTURES DISCUSSION**

Larson shared some pictures of possible shade structures for the dog park and explained that the structures at Paul Bunyan Park are 10 feet and they cost about \$6,000 for the single and \$10,000 for the double. This is a cheaper option than a hard pavilion. They could be located over the benches at the dog park and there is money in the budget for them. Discussed putting some at North Country Park. Larson will put together a budget and check on the shipping timeline and report back to the Commissioners.

### **COMMISSIONER UPDATES**

Wesley pointed out that Marcia and Jamie will be doing a presentation at the MRPA conference.

### **DIRECTOR'S UPDATES**

**SOLAR PROJECT** – work continues on the solar project at the TIC and they should be finished within the week. They will put some educational panels with the help from the sustainability committee.

### **NATURAL PLAYGROUND PROJECT**

This project is complete and all of the climbing features are in place and the park is getting heavily used. The baseball field is being used on a regular basis. The pollinator gardens are also completed. Discussed finding a bike that is handicap accessible. July is park and rec month and there will be a t-shirt fundraiser for the scholarship fund. Scott Schroeder, the new Park Superintendent, will start the end of July.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Prim, seconded by Faver, to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 p.m. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lolly Randall

Administrative Assistant