

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
January 6, 2021

**Call to Order**

Doris called meeting to order at 5:32pm

Travis Coggin – P

Nora Hahn–P

Ashley Brown–P

David Locke-P

Bridget Martinez–A

Doris Michalak-P

Charlie Mattair-P

Also Present:

James Singleton–P

Robert Basford-P

Josh Rodrigue-P

Maria Thorne-P

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion made to approve minutes by David

Motion to approve minutes seconded Charlie

**Citizen Comments**

Resident brought up concerns at the Nature Trail, stating the trail needs more lights, especially near the dog park. Additionally, the resident addressed concerns with a sitting water issue along the trail after heavy rains – detailing that the trail may hold water for up to a week. The final issue was of the graffiti at the retention pond, to which Robert said we were working on the issue.

**Items for individual consideration**

a. Tree City USA - Robert Basford

Robert discussed where we were in meeting the criteria for Tree City USA, stating we meet about half the criteria, but meeting the other criteria might be best done with a new Parks Supervisor in place. Thus, Robert suggested we table Tree City USA until a new hire was made, and the committee concurred.

b. Youth Committee member Joshua Rodrigue, Robert Basford

The committee deliberated on the position and the two applicants, Sierra and Ashley. Nora and Doris noted that both applicants are very similar and could serve the department well. Councilmember Singleton noted that the committee should consider appointing the person who best fills in gaps in experience and interest in the committee. Doris wondered if we could appoint both applicants, but staff informed her and the committee that would go against the committee's by-laws. Finally, after thought and deliberation, the committee appointed Sierra Brown with a 6-0 vote.

## **Staff briefings**

### **Recreation**

Josh gave a preview to programs and events in the first half of this year. He is only planned programs and events that will be approved now. No big festivals and gatherings until at least the fall. If any state or local regulations on COVID-19 change in the next 6 months, the department can always add events and festivals.

### **Parks -**

Nora Hahn brought up a potential for lockers at Dog Park for people to keep their stuff in as well as the possibility for more seating. Charlie also said we need more lighting at the dog park. This is something we've gotten quite a bit of requests for and something the committee wants to see in the Master Plan.

Robert discussed the finishing of the Splash Pad Shade Structure project as well as replacement of signs at nature trail. Additionally, Robert detailed the search for a new Parks Supervisor, stating it may be 3-4 more months until we have someone in place, since we are restarting the search.

The Committee and staff then engaged in conversation about a potential recreation center in place of the current city hall. Much of the conversation was on the likelihood that residents and council would even have interest in funding a project like this with Ashley, David, Charlie, and Doris echoing their concerns. Staff assured the committee that this was a potential in the community and would be seen as a wish list item. The committee then asked questions about the facility's necessity when coupled with the future Golf Course Convention Center and against the possibility of renovating the outdoor courts at Clark Henry Park. Nora spoke on the community deserving new amenities rather than refurbished amenities. Staff and the committee then decided to move discussion to next week in order to take a look at the recreation center, as well as the other projects in the Master Plan, and approve those before they go to Council in February.

### **Future agenda item request**

Committee will take a look at the Master Plan before it is presented to Council in February.

**Next Meeting date:** 02.03.2021

### **Adjournment**

Motion made to adjourn meeting by Charlie

Motion seconded by David