

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY COMMISSION

MINUTES

Monday, July 15, 2024

1. Call to order

The Watertown Parks, Recreation & Forestry Commission met in person on July 15, 2024. The meeting was called to order by Brian Konz. Members present: Brian Konz, Julie Chapman, Ald. Jonathan Lampe, Jennifer Clayton, Brad Clark. Not present: Emily Lessner and Kyle Krueger. Also present: Kristine Butteris, Jeff Doyle, Andrea Draeger, Jarrod Folkman, Stephanie Juhl, Ali Nicholson, Ian Pilak.

2. Review and approval of minutes:

Jennifer Clayton motioned to approve the June 17, 2024 Parks Recreation and Forestry minutes as written. Ald. Jonathan Lampe, seconded. Motion carried.

Jennifer Clayton motioned to approve the June 18, 2024 Senior Center Advisory Board minutes as written. Ald. Jonathan Lampe, seconded. Motion carried.

3. Review and approval of financial reports

Brad Clark motioned to approve the May 2024 financial reports. Julie Chapman seconded. Motion carried.

4. Citizens to be heard

There were none.

5. Business

A. Review and take action: rental fee reduction for Dodge County Republican Party

Jack Yuds, President, and Laurie Hoffmann, Treasurer, were present to answer questions regarding a letter submitted to the department requesting rental fees of the Senior & Community Center be waived for all meetings held for the Dodge County Republican Party as a non-profit entity. Policies governing the use of the Senior & Community Center were recently approved by the commission, and would classify this group as class 5, requiring regular room rental fees per hour and a security deposit. Ald. Jonathan Lampe requested more information be given regarding their non-profit designation in order to make an informed decision. Ald. Jonathan Lampe motioned to table the decision until the August meeting. Julie Chapman seconded. Motion carried.

6. Director's Report:

A. Parks Updates

No updates for the Riverside restrooms are available at this time. It was requested that an update be given to the Riverfest committee as soon as possible. Information is available for the smoking in parks ordinance and will be on the August agenda for approval.

B. Forestry

The team will be applying for another grant.

C. Aquatics

The filtration system will be upgraded at the end of the system with Carico Aquatics.



D. Town Square

The interactive water feature is temporarily down because of a storm and will need new parts. Temporarily it is set on a schedule.

E. Senior & Community Center

The generator will be arriving and installed soon. The library has not been designated a heating/cooling shelter and will not be receiving a generator.

F. Programming - recreation

Kayak rentals from Leadership Watertown are now available at the kiosk at Riverside Park. Jarrod was introduced and he informed the group that day camp is running well, baseball is wrapping up as well as a soccer camp last week. Adult softball and volleyball are starting, and registration opened for fall soccer, flag football, and new gymnastics program. It was suggested that the department consider more options for pickleball.

G. Programming – town square

Food truck Mondays are scheduled along with various pop-up food trucks and events. This week will have a movie and a Saturday band.

H. Programming – senior & enrichment

Senior Citizen Day will be celebrated on August 21 and are looking for pizza and ice cream donations/sponsorships. The advisory board members are being updated again after the passing of our chairperson. Arrangements for tournaments and park events are being completed.

I. Programming – aquatics

Weekly themes are being created (a boat race will happen this week) with meal deal specials. A flick n float will happen later this month. Fall swim lessons are almost full and just opened today.

7. Adjournment – Next meeting date August 19, 2024

Jennifer Clayton motioned to adjourn the meeting. Brad Clark seconded. Motion carried.