# WEST DES MOINES PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD PROCEEDINGS Thursday, May 16, 2024

Members of the public wishing to participate telephonically, could do so by calling: 515-207-8241 and entering Conference ID: 189 093 379#

The meeting of the West Des Moines Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order in the City Hall Council Chambers on Thursday, May 16, at 5:30 p.m. by presiding Chair Miller.

Commission	Heather Schebel	Joe Hrdlicka	Jim Miller Chair	Aaron Sewell	Linda Lowe Vice-Chair
Present	X		X	X	X

Commission	Melissa Clarke- Wharff Secretary	Kathleen Till Stange	
Present	X	X	

Staff & Council	Ryan Penning Director of Parks & Recreation	Marco Alvarez Superintendent of Parks	Laura Murphy Superintendent of Recreation	Shayne Ratcliff General Manager of RecPlex	Miranda Kurtt  Executive Assistant to  Director
Present		X	X	X	X
Staff & Council	Greg Hudson				
Present					

# On Item 1. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda

Clark-Wharff moved to approve the agenda as presented. Lowe seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

#### On Item 2. Citizen Forum

None.

# On Item 3. 3. Approval of Minutes of April 25, 2024, Meeting

Till Stange moved to approve the minutes as presented. Clark-Wharff seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

#### On Item 4 Old Business

None.

#### **New Business**

#### On Item 5A. – Presentation – Annual Reports

#### 1. West Des Moines Soccer Club

Adam Schnieders, Director of Properties, provided an update on their organization. There are three new directors. The organization has been operating since 1986 serving youth ages three to nineteen. They maintain two complexes: Raccoon River Park Soccer Complex leased from the City of West Des Moines and Hidden Valley Soccer Complex which they own. The organization is having growth in registration. Numerous facility improvements included new metal well house doors, irrigation repairs, Field 7 and 8 repairs, and more. Due to theft, numerous items were taken

including the club trailer and the contents. The Club and Parks and Recreation partnered to remove an old storage shed. The Athene Pedestrian Bridge construction is causing irrigation damage, fencing issues, and drainage issues. They are requesting to use the bridge for moving equipment. They discussed the public usage of fields and dog waste. Schnieders shared the purpose of the Club and emphasized the program is geared toward West Des Moines residents. Schnieders commented that the MidAmerican Energy RecPlex is accommodating to the Club and building a partnership for future use.

## 2. SportsPlex West

Blake Marchant, League Director, presented the SportsPlex West Annual Report. This user group provides Competitive Baseball Leagues (CBL) and Recreational Open Baseball Leagues (OBL). There has been a slight decrease in registration numbers. Of the 276 registered OBL participants, the majority are West Des Moines residents. Fees will increase due to the increased cost of equipment and field maintenance. One facility request is for more improvement for the batting cages. Murphy stated that there are discussions on addressing this issue. Lowe questioned if there is a control procedure for parking on the grass and bike trails. Marchant stated he would relay this concern to Dick Stanley and Drew Stanley. Clark-Wharff questioned scholarships for residents. Murphy stated there is a possibility with staff working with Human Services.

# On Item 5B. Motion-Approval of Alternate Parkland Dedication Plan

#### 1. Prime 39

Alvarez stated the Prime 39 development is located at 960 76<sup>th</sup> Street and consists of 38 townhouse units. This development is served by Wild Rose Park and Brookview Park. The developer has chosen to provide on-site amenities that will serve a park and recreational purpose for the residents of this development by providing additional walking paths and usable outdoor space. This was presented and approved by the Facilities Committee.

Schebel moved to approve the Alternate Parkland Dedication Plan – Prime 39 as presented. Wharff-Clark seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Staff Reports**

## On Item 6A. Superintendent of Parks

Alvarez stated that the 1st Street River Access bid was accepted and came in approximately \$600,000 under the projected cost. The Capital Improvement Project list presented to the Council was approved and fully funded. The Athene Pedestrian Bridge deck has been fully paved. The next step is the esthetic elements. Holiday Park Phase 8 is expected to be completed within the next month. The playground equipment replacement for Kiwanis Park, Jaycee Park, and Crossroads is underway. The bridges at Pearson Park will be replaced with the demolition starting on the north bridge. The swim ropes and spray ground at American Legion Park will open for Memorial Day weekend. This time of year is challenging to keep the parks mowed, and are asking residents to be patient. The main areas are getting mowed, but the peripheral areas are left however will be addressed once Public Services has a chance to catch up. Miller questioned whether the mowers could use the Athene Pedestrian Bridge as a passage between the facilities. Alvarez will check with the legal department. Schebel questioned if there are concerns about people being on the bridge before it is complete.

## On Item 6B. Superintendent of Recreation

Murphy stated the pools are filled and staff training is happening within the next couple of weeks. The 3-Meter Platform passed the state inspection. Raccoon River Park Softball Concessions is having great success. The Building Attendants and Event Staff are being trained for the Jamie Hurd Amphitheater in preparation for upcoming summer events. The WDMurals are being painted throughout the community on trail underpasses. Holiday Baseball Park Complex and Raccoon River Park Softball Complex have been busy with leagues, tournaments, and practices. The Boathouse will open on May 24. Other upcoming events include Raccoon River Palooza, the Fourth of July Parade and fireworks information launched, and summer programs.

# On Item 6C. RecPlex General Manager

Ratcliff stated it is the dry floor season in the main arena. Several events that were hosted included Raise the Bar Women's Weightlifting (a fundraiser to put weights in school), Legacy Dance Championship, and NetLynx Volleyball Tournament. Some of the smaller events included the Iowa State University Tailgate Kickoff, All-Iowa Attack Basketball Tournament, and West Des Moines Lacrosse Jamboree. The facility also has many graduation and birthday parties scheduled. Upcoming, the RecPlex will host the large Iowa Homeschool Convention and Iowa Methodist Church Convention. After these events, ice will be installed for the Buccaneers Tryout Camp, and a full summer of ice-related programs. Over 3,000 registered participants for RP Kids programs.

On Item 6C. Director of Parks and Recreation No report.

On Item 7. Other Matters

None.

#### On Item 8: Receive, File and/or Refer:

A. City Council Communications
None

B. Parks CIP Projects Status

Lowe moved to adjourn the meeting. Schebel seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Miranda Kurtt

Date

Executive Assistant to Director

ATTEST:

Melissa Clarke-Wharff

Secretary