

**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 <i>Chair</i>	Aaron Sewell	Linda Lowe <i>Vice-Chair</i>
Present	X		X	X	X

Commission	Melissa Clarke-Wharff <i>Secretary</i>	Kathleen Till Stange
Present	X	X

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

Staff & Council	Greg Hudson <i>Council Liaison</i>
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 76th 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.

