

WEST DES MOINES PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD PROCEEDINGS
Thursday, June 20, 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, June 20, 2024, at 5:31 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

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

Staff & Council	Greg Hudson <i>Council Liaison</i>
Present	

On Item 1. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda

Till Stange moved to approve the agenda as presented. Schebel seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

On Item 2. Citizen Forum

None.

On Item 3. Approval of Minutes of May 16, 2024, Meeting

Schebel moved to approve the minutes as presented. Till Stange seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

On Item 4 Old Business

None.

New Business

On Item 5A. – Presentation – Annual Reports

1. Iowa Premier League – Cricket

Aravind Mandadi, President of Iowa Premier League – Cricket provided an update on their league. They have added two Afghanistan teams illustrating the league is gaining new teams from different backgrounds. The league has kids' teams now competing. They are requesting storage rooms at Wilson Park and Valley View Park pitch mat needs to be repaired or replaced for easier runup and to avoid injuries. A new request is for lights in Valley View Park and Willson Park. Penning asked which park would take precedence in having lights of the two parks and they indicated Wilson Park. Alvarez provided information regarding the storage and the pitch is in the planning stages. The field at Valley View Park is designed as a 'dome' to assist with drainage. The mat was replaced last year at Valley View Park. Penning mentioned a potential partnership to cover the cost of the lighting.

Mandadi questioned adding a cricket field and if there is a way to discount the rental fields at the MidAmerican Energy RecPlex. Miller and Till Stange suggested grant options for child participants. Penning also suggested requesting funding from Hotel/Motel Tax.

2. Heartland Cricket League

Harish Vasireddy, President of Heartland Cricket League provided an update on their league. This league uses the hard ball and is more competitive than the Iowa Premier League. The league is playing two to three tournaments per year. A large expense is the cost of the balls that are used. The league would like to spread awareness of the sport to the community. They are also requesting lights at Wilson Park and Valley View Park to expand the playing time. The league is requesting the cleaning of the drainage culvert at Wilson Park. They have communicated with the City of Waukee to install a cricket field as they develop the city. Penning questioned the youngest player's age, and they stated it was 5-6 years old. Ratcliff questioned what they would need to practice at the MidAmerican Energy RecPlex fields as there may be an opportunity to purchase a portable pitch for practice.

On Item 5B. Motion - Approval Recommendation to City Council – Adjustment of Fees and Charges

Penning discussed the recommended fees and charges that were included in the Parks and Recreation Park Board packet. The Community Garden Plots are full and have a long waiting list. Ratcliff stated that the change for the pickleball charge will align with other new drop-in fees. Ratcliff stated the coaches' fee is closer to the other users' drop-in fees and ensures that they are counted in the number of persons on the field.

Schebel moved to approve the Recommendation to City Council as presented. Lowe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports

On Item 6A. Superintendent of Parks

Alvarez stated coordination of staff and departments for the upcoming holiday is occurring. July 1 is when funds will be available for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Capital Improvement Projects. The professional services for the design of Ashawa Park and Wild Rose Park playground replacement were approved at the last council meeting. The construction of the Athene Pedestrian Bridge is moving along. The center canopy overlook is installed, and the railings are next followed by the pavement connections on either side of the trail. The 1st Street River Access contractor will begin soon with the goal to have the project completed this year. The Holiday Park Baseball parking lot is complete. The additional section of trail at Southwoods Singletrack Trail is underway. The ribbon-cutting event for the Athene Pedestrian Bridge will be planned closer to the completion of the project.

On Item 6B. Superintendent of Recreation

Penning provided an update on behalf of Murphy. Mark Brewick is retiring in August and the posting for Recreation Program/Facility Supervisor position received 78 applications. The top 15 will be invited to oral boards. The aquatic centers are busy. The concessions are open at Raccoon River Park Softball, Valley View Aquatic Center, Holiday Park Aquatic Center and are far exceeding the previous concessionaire totals. The Jamie Hurd Amphitheater summer season is kicking off on June 21 with Summer Sundaze and Moonlit Movies. The Public Art Advisory Commission received a \$50,000 grant from Bravo which will go towards a permanent art piece in Legacy Woods. Raccoon River Palooza in partnership with the West Des Moines Chamber on June 8 was a great success. The installation of the backdrop net at Holiday Baseball Park is in the works.

On Item 6C. RecPlex General Manager

Ratcliff stated the dry floor season ended and within a hundred hours the ice was installed for Des Moines Buccaneer's usage. The RP Kids camps are averaging over 100 kids per day. It is a very busy place with

various activities taking place. Maintenance on the facility is occurring at this time when there are fewer large events taking place.

On Item 6C. Director of Parks and Recreation

Penning suggested driving by Legacy Woods to view the demolition. Southwood’s Disc Golf Course will host the Des Moines Disc Challenge on Saturday, June 22. Penning reminded the Board of the Ice Cream Socials on July 9, 11, 16, and 18. Annual staff evaluations and merit increases are complete. Schebel thanked the staff for the smooth transition during numerous staff changes.

On Item 7. Other Matters

None.

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


A. City Council Communications

- June 17, 2024 Motion – Approval of Professional Services Agreement – Playground Equipment Replacement – Ashawa and Wild Rose Park
- June 17, 2024 Resolution – Accept – Valley View Aquatic Center Toddler Slide and Three Meter Diving Platform
- June 17, 2024 Resolution - Approval of 28E Agreement with the City of Des Moines – Major Reconstruction within the Public Right-of-Way of SW 63rd / SE 1st Street from SW McKinley Avenue to Raccoon River
- June 17, 2023 Approval of Construction Contract with H21 Group, Inc. - RecPlex Fieldhouse Safety Netting and Protective Curtain
- May 20, 2024 Public Hearing – Raccoon River Greenway Boat Access
 - 1. Resolution – Approval of Plans and Specifications
 - 2. Motion – Receive and File Report of Bids
 - 3. Resolution – Approve Contract
- May 20, 2024 Motion – Approval of Professional Services Agreement Amendment #5 – Raccoon River Greenway, Parking Lot and River Access at 1st Street

B. Parks CIP Projects Status

Schebel moved to adjourn the meeting. Lowe seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

 7-18-24
 Miranda Kurtt Date
 Executive Assistant to Director

ATTEST:

 7/18/24
 Melissa Clarke-Wharff Date
 Secretary