

Regular Meeting.
Parks Commission November 7, 2022 - 4:30 p.m.
City hall

Present: C. Martinson, T. Urbanski, Sarah Buhs, J. Badger, T. Krohn, M. Krick
Absent: M. Collins
Staff: R. Biebl, C. Peterson
Others: E. Bates, K. Kolodge

MINUTES

The minutes of the August 29, 2022 regular meeting were presented. Motion to approve by Commissioner Buhs and 2nd by Commissioner Urbanski, motion carried 5-0.

COMMUNITY ED

Erin Bates gave an update on upcoming events including:

- Ice skate checkout at the Community Ed office.
 - DNR grant application may allow addition of snowshoes.
- Groundhog medallion hunt.
- Thursday family night starts at Washington School Gym.
- Review of Beach financial as December Park Commission meeting.
- December Lumber Log.

CITY STAFF REPORT

- Staff reviewed the sales tax referendum on the ballot and provided information sheets to those interested.
- Staff recommends not opening the Athletic Park ice rink this season due to lack of use in recent years and mechanical issues at the warming house. The staff time committed to establish and maintain a rink is substantial for very limited to no use. The Commission felt the recommendation was reasonable.
- The new fire pit at Pine Valley installed as part of an eagle scout project is complete. Commissioner Buhs recommended a thank you to the scout via social media.
- Staff were able to acquire a used camera system at no cost and will attempt to deploy it in vandalism hot spots as feasible.
- Staff reviewed the Buckthorn Bust event held at Pine Valley and thanked Carlton SWCD for being a valuable partner on multiple projects over the past year. Buhs commented it would good if this could become an annual event.

2023 FEE SCHEDULE

Discussion began with questions regarding how raising Beach fees might impact already declining attendance. Urbanski inquired about adult to child ratios for large groups which vary by age of the children. Bates reviewed historic sales by the type of pass sold and noted inflation has driven up staffing costs in recent years while admission rates remained constant. Commissioners recommended considering marketing strategies to attract new customers and inquired about conducting a survey to get gain more customer feedback.

Biebl reviewed the remaining rate recommendations including memorial brick at Veterans Park, Shelter rentals, campground rates and ball field rental with field prep. Staff noted the ball field prep was a significant expense. Staff and Community Ed recently discovered the rental rate was only charged at \$25 resulting in a loss on material costs. Discussion was held on some miscellaneous fees which are no longer offered such as firewood, tent camping and the senior center kitchen.

Motion by Commissioner Krohn to recommend approval of the 2023 Park Fee Schedule, seconded by Commissioner Martinson, motion carried 6-0.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting to be held December 5, 2022 - 4:30 p.m. (City Hall)
On motion duly carried by a unanimous yea vote of all members present, the Parks Commission adjourned.

Secretary