

Park and Recreation Minutes

1/8/2024

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kacie Fahey. Present were Kacie Fahey, Josh Lindgren, Mark Paige, Nicole Bower, Tanya Borchardt, Eric Hanson and Dawn McCracken.

Kellee, with Farmington Park and Recreation, confirmed they have a 12-person passenger van that can be used for the parks tour at our October 2024 joint meeting.

Dawn will order 2 additional elf costumes for the Holiday party next year. She will have maintenance pull down the Frosty costume from storage so we can try to solve the issues with the inadequate size of the eye openings which affects the vision of the one wearing the costume.

Dawn provided new options to replace the damaged snow globe at the Holiday Party. Preferred option 1 is a sleigh and reindeer. Option 2 is an 8 ft. inflatable snowman globe with Santa Claus. We will look into a vinyl banner for future events advertising "Holiday Party happening this Saturday! Open to the public! An option to consider is hanging the banner from the public works sign.

Maintenance was very open to a town Christmas tree lighting/community tree for 2024 and beyond. As we get closer to the next Holiday Season, we will revisit options for locations, trees, lights etc.

Empire has recently purchased a new snowplow truck. The committee would like to hold a naming contest, similar to MNDOT's contest for naming their equipment. The unveiling of the new name would take place at the Empire Celebration 2024. This will be revisited at a future meeting for finalization prior to the April newsletter.

In the coming weeks Dawn will begin reaching out to past Sunday night entertainment providers to invite them back for 2024. She will also contact the raptor and eagle center to check their availability and rates for the summer. Committee members will research and recommend additional ideas to be discussed at the February meeting. Sunday entertainment dates for 2024 are scheduled to be June 6th, June 23rd, July 7th, July 21st, August 1st for Celebration and August 25th.

Empire Earth Day clean-up will be hosted on Saturday, April 20th, 2024. This will be a rain or shine event. Participants will be invited back to City Hall for snacks as a thank you for contributing. Community members will be asked to help clean up the trails throughout the city. We will begin event promotion as Spring nears.

The meeting was adjourned.