

## Park and Recreation Minutes

April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

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

Jenna Calhoun, from the Farmington Rotary attended the meeting today to discuss opportunities to partner with Empire. They have the ability to provide volunteers for Empire events and funding for various initiatives. Farmington Rotary member Jenna Calhoun invited Park and Rec members to attend future Rotary meetings for more information about the organization. The Farmington Rotary is also interested in renting out an area in Empire that could potentially be used for future events that would involve music and alcohol. Dawn will look into this to see if that is an option.

The Earth Day clean-up had about 15 volunteers! Next year, we will utilize a sign in sheet so thank you cards can be sent. For extra fun, Kacie recommended a “weirdest find” contest. Event signage was placed along the trails this year to help spread the word. The Hampton Fire Department will provide some safety vests that were donated to them and not needed. Custom merchandise was suggested specifically for events that could be used as thank you gifts or unique incentives to encourage more volunteers. Ace Hardware may potentially be able to provide hats with Ace on the back and Empire on the front.

As a summer promotion we will announce ongoing clean-up initiatives for the youth in the area. Those who bring in a bag of trash that is collected from the parks, trails or their neighborhood, will receive a free scoop of ice cream from Chill in Farmington.

Dawn has solidified summer entertainment contracts. The event sign-up sheet for Park and Recreation Committee members will be made available at future meetings.

The Education and Outreach program has coloring books and other items explaining the process of wastewater treatment available. Although good resources for this information, it was decided that since we already pass out coloring books at Celebration, we will not recommend the purchase of these additional resources.

Mark is looking into options and pricing for a digital sign at City Hall to help get the word out to residents about events, volunteer opportunities, etc. He will report back at the next meeting for further discussion.

The joint meeting with the Farmington Park and Recreation Commission will be on Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6-8pm. Farmington will shuttle attendees to their chosen parks. Empire locations to be viewed will be Town Hall Park and the Empire Fields disc golf course.

Farmington recommended adding multiple stations of cornhole games at the Spring food truck night. Some of their Park and Rec. members have boards available for use at the event. Nicole recommended we consider ordering a few sets of Empire branded cornhole sets to use at Celebration, Food Truck nights, Sunday Entertainment etc. Farmington suggested activities were discussed for future food truck events.

The Planning Commission's recommendation is to go back to a 5 person Park and Recreation Committee instead of changing the ordinance to reflect the requested 7-person committee. We will bring the request for 7 to the City Council to get their recommendation and make the candidate decision based off their answer.

A request was made by resident Rachael Cochrane to consider adding a Farmer's market to Empire. She is interested in spearheading the project and suggested this year be a planning year for Empire, with the market itself to be available 2025. Dawn will reach out to Rachael to see if she is able to attend the Park and Rec. meeting on May 13th for further discussion of her ideas.

The meeting was adjourned.