

Park and Recreation Minutes

6/24/2024

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kacie Fahey. Present were Kacie Fahey, Tanya Borchardt, Mark Page, Amanda Stender, Abraham Morales, Nicole Bower, Josh Lindgren, Danny Rubio, Dawn McCracken and Charles Seipel-Teng.

Anna Springer and Aus Perez, with the Bolten& Menk team, joined the meeting as special guests to present the process that will be used to develop a new long term Park Development Plan. Anna is a Project Manager and Lead Landscape Architect. Aus Perez is a Landscape Designer.

The project will take place June-December and will conclude with a comprehensive recommended plan for adoption to guide future parks & rec planning based on needs, community input, and national parks & recreation standards.

The 6/23 community pop-up survey indicated the following: 28 votes wanting additional playground and play features, 15 votes wanting additional programs, events, activities for all ages, 13 votes wanting sport courts, 11 votes wanted additional preservation of nature, 8 votes wanted increased connectivity and accessibility and lastly, 7 votes for increased flex/play fields.

Residents at the event expressed a willingness to spend more time & money on Empire Park and Recreation amenities, but many are currently drawn to amenities in neighboring cities. Top comments included a request for a splash pad/water feature for summer and a local dog park.

Sunday Night Entertainment was a success with the Barron of Bubbles and Vicky the Balloon Artist. We had 65 attendees. Both the Barron and Vicky stayed after schedule time to ensure each child in a line received their requested balloon art.

The meeting was adjourned.