

Park and Recreation Minutes

July 10th, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mike Carey. Present were Mike Carey, Kacie Fahey, Mark Page, Nicole Bower, Danny Rubio and Dawn McCracken. This weeks Summer Entertainment was a magician! The kids enjoyed the show, but we received mixed reviews of the content. There were 78 attendees, and the weather was great for the event!

Ryan Labrash, with the 11U AAA Farmington Baseball team, visited with a proposal for Empire to host the First Annual Empire Day. The event would include a wiffle ball tournament, bags tournament, food trucks, live music and a dunk tank. Their organization would handle the logistics with minimal help needed from the Park and Recreation Committee. The proposal suggested an 80/20 split with city. Dawn will send Ryan some open dates as the one originally requested is already booked for a tournament.

The Committee recommended the team proceed with their fundraiser, as an independent event, with support from Park and Rec for marketing and spreading the word. We feel this is a great cause though our goal as a committee is to provide events and entertainment to the community free of charge and without profit to the city. Celebrate Empire is our annual family festival which is well attended and loved.

Mike will contact the previous years sponsors this week for Celebration. Tanya contacted Bourbon Butcher about a meat donation which they are interested in discussing further. She will continue talking with them to work out details and see if they may also be interested in helping cook and serve at the event. Dawn is awaiting a food estimate for meat from Greg's Market as well. We will continue discussions once additional details are obtained.

Celebration details were further discussed. Tanya has left a voicemail for Kwik Trip in Farmington requesting a water donation for the event. The Dakota County Sheriff Department will set up the SWAT obstacle course for the kids this year at Celebration. Rather than the air-boat, they offered to bring the ATVS to keep things fresh. Kacie will continue communicating with them to coordinate and will ask about the SWAT vehicle or other possible pieces of equipment to bring. Dawn is making a couple modifications to the button design for Celebration and then will order 500. The fire department will send their Ladder 1 and Brush 21 (UTV) to Celebration. The newly donated roasters have arrived!

The meeting was adjourned.