

Park and Recreation Minutes

April 10th , 2023

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mike Carey. Present were Mark Page, Kacie Fahey, Tanya Borchartt, Mike Carey, Nicole Bower, Eric Hanson and Dawn McCracken.

The focus on Earth Day will be cleaning up the trails and waterfront areas around the trails. Our Maintenance Supervisor, Jerod, will purchase rebar and chicken wire to create the tree cages for our new trees this spring. These cages will be assembled onsite at Hope Church as part of our Earth Day joint activity.

Dawn will contact Dan Oberer, with Hope Church, to continue to discuss the possibility of a Farmers Market within the community. She will also talk with our Clerk -Administrator to determine the areas we, as a City, could promote this community asset.

Dawn has continued to secure performers for Sunday Entertainment during the summer. She will confirm the final dates with them and then create a sign-up calendar for the Parks and Rec. members.

The new City of Empire shirt options were reviewed. Dawn will check with the designer to see if they can be embroidered vs. silk screened, as was originally discussed since that would most likely last longer. She will order forest green shirts with white design and lettering.

We will be exploring additional Community Education offerings for residents. Dawn will reach out to Dakota County Community Education to see if someone would be open to holding one of their financial planning presentations in our area. We would be willing to offer the use of our space for that class.

Empire Celebration duties were reviewed and reassigned accordingly, as well as other tasks that Jessica had previously handled. Nicole and Tanya will prep signs for upcoming events and Kacie is shopping for new Holiday Party characters.

As part of our DNR grant, we need to choose wildlife signs to include in the park's finishing touches before they officially sign off on it. Committee members will review sign options and look at the park for locations. Content suggestions include details on specific trees, the wildflower garden, pond life, common animals in the area, frequents birds etc. We will also into the use of QR codes to link to additional information on our various plants and flowers.

The setup for the May 19th Food Truck was reviewed and approved. Details with the Farmington Park and Recreation Commission will be finalized regarding trash pick-up. Dawn will finalize details with Jerod. The meeting was adjourned.

