

Park and Recreation Minutes

6/26/2023

The meeting was called to order by Committee member Nicole Bower. Present were Kacie Fahey, Mark Page, Tanya Borchardt, Nicole Bower, Josh Lindgren, Eric Hanson, Danny Rubio, Dawn McCracken and Mayor Trent Larson.

Aimee Schreiber, with the Farmington Library, attended as a guest. All Committee members were in favor of the library attending the Empire Celebration with their Dakota County Outreach van. The purpose of the outreach van will be to promote library services in the area. They'll have activities for the kids, prize wheels and lots of resource options for the attendees.

The new park signs have arrived! They are ready for installation this week. This will be the final step to completing our DNR grant requirement. The final inspection is scheduled for July 10th.

Dawn will talk with Mike about contacting Troy to see if they are able to bring their race cars to our Celebration event. She is also actively working with the Fire Department to secure a few pieces of large equipment for the kids to tour and learn about at Celebration. The Sheriff's department will be providing multiple pieces of equipment, a drone demonstration as well as other activities currently being finalized.

A variety of hobby stick horses were presented as options for the Celebration horse game. Committee members opted for the colorful horse and unicorn pack, with sound, to give the game a fresh new interactive spin.

Dawn will place an order for a new Empire banner for Celebration with removable sponsor names made of vinyl. This will allow us to easily switch them out year to year. She will contact Schwan's to request ice cream sandwiches, orange push-ups, ice cream cones and bomb pops. We will request the mini ice cream sundae cups as a back-up if one of those isn't available.

Dawn requested roaster donations from Bolten-Menk. These would be used for the beans as well as keeping the hot dogs warm. We are going to price out adding hamburgers to the Celebration menu as an option also. Dawn will start by reaching out to Greg's Meats for pricing. Josh will also reach out to Bourbon Butcher to see if they may be interested in donating to Celebration. Dawn will place an order from Sweet Kneads Bakery for 400 hotdog buns and 400 hamburger buns. We still have some frozen hot dogs from a previous event so a full order will not be needed.

Dawn will talk with Mike to see if he's heard back from any of the previous local sponsors that had donated to Celebration in the past. Farmer Aaron has confirmed he will be proving cider slushies once again this year. Tanya will reach out to Kwik about water donations for the event.

The inner gates at Stelzel Fields are unable to be secured open as they only open partially. It was the recommendation of the Committee that they be removed and stored for ease of field maintenance. In addition, it was noted that the playground at Stelzel Fields had some bolts that needed attention. Dawn will pass this along to the maintenance crew.

There was a concern about foul balls at Stelzel Fields. There was a request for netting to be installed in addition to the fences. This was explored a few years ago and was found to not be feasible due to the cost of \$60,000+ and concern for damage to the drain tile and sprinkler system where the poles would need to be installed. In lieu of netting, it was recommended a few caution signs be installed. Danny will send Dawn a possible sign option and Jerod will be asked to investigate other options that may be offered through the current sign company primarily used with for Empire.

RAD Zoo was a hit at our Sunday Summer Entertainment! We had 65 attendees. Thankfully, the zoo made it through their presentation before the rain started. Not many kids stayed to pet the animals, due to the rain, but they were still very excited to have seen the show. Historically, this has been a community favorite for Summer Entertainment.

Mark suggested having a commemorative button made for Celebration since it is our first year as a city. Dawn will price this out and investigate design options using our new Empire logo. In future years, we can discuss additional ideas for community design submissions. Eventually the button purchase could potentially be used for raffles etc. This can be explored further at a future date.

The meeting was adjourned.