

## Park and Recreation Committee

March 3/13/2023

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mike Carey. Present were Mike Carey, Kacie Fahey, Nicole Bower, Mark Page, Danny Rubio, Dawn McCracken and Maintenance Supervisor, Jerod Waltman.

Missie Kohlbeck, the Farmington Recreation Supervisor, was a visitor this evening. They would like to offer their Pickle Ball Program for Spring/Summer 2023 and would like to partner with Empire by using our courts while they await repairs to their own courts. A rental agreement will be drafted by the Park and Recreation Committee which Dawn will forward to Missie for Farmington's City Council to approve.

Dan Oberer, with Hope Church attended as a visitor. They are interested in becoming more involved with community events in the City of Empire. Jerod recommended we coordinate an Earth Day event with their volunteers on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The purpose will be to build cages for the planned new trees and to clean litter along the Empire trails. Dawn was able to secure 10 each of Red Pine, Bur Oak, Swamp White Oak, Sugar Maple and River Birch. Jerod recommended using 4' tall metal stakes and chicken wire for the cages. This will give maintenance the ability to reuse the stakes once they are no longer needed for the trees as well as keep the wildlife from damaging the trees. We should use medium sized wire to avoid weeds choking out the new trees. Empire will supply gloves and trash bags. Volunteers will be able to place filled bags on the trail for pick up on Monday from our Maintenance team. In the event of inclement weather, the event will be moved to Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. Hope Church will invite members of their congregation to participate and Empire will include an announcement in their newsletter, the community website as well as on the Park and Recreation Facebook page.

Hope Church is also interested in partnering with Park and Rec for a Farmer's Market which would be held in their church parking lot. Once the Committee is able to review this suggestion Dawn will invite the church for further discussion. They have also invited Empire representatives to participate in the Fall Festival they are planning. Park and Rec will continue conversations as planning continues to see how and where we'll fit best.

Jerod has requested the Park and Recreation Commission to review plowing efforts for 197<sup>th</sup> -203<sup>rd</sup> Street along Highway 3 as its been a draw on resources year after year. This area needs to be cleared far more frequently than all the other trail areas due to its location and the thin separation from Highway 3. This is also one of the most unused sections of trail during winter.

Jerod also requested Park and Recreation to discuss the future plans for our hockey rinks. With them aging and in need of significant repairs, planning now for the 2023-2024 season so we can coordinate efforts would be ideal. This will be added to a future agenda.

Dawn is beginning to reach out to Summer Entertainment Vendors to coordinate our desired dates. She's also beginning to coordinate vendors for our summer Celebration on Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6-8pm.

New shirts will need to be ordered prior to Celebration due to the new logo. Dawn will look into obtaining a dry fit option in any color other than white.

Updates to the Deer Creek Park mock-ups are ongoing. Additional versions and price estimates will be presented for discussion once ready.

Farmington requested the Fall Food Truck event be moved to Empire Fields. The Park and Recreation committee approved this change.

The meeting was adjourned.