**Park Board**

5:00 PM – Monday, May 8, 2023

Meeting Room of the Community Center

**MINUTES**

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM. by Board President Elliott.

**1. Roll Call**: Present: Park Board members, Pat Elliott, Kathryn Lewandowski, Allicia Woodhouse, Larry Hallett, Brad Wegner, Gary Manning, County Board, Mark Chambers, City Council, Parks and Rec Dir. Jodi Mieden, Parks and Grounds Supt, Dave Fry.

**2. Motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the last meeting(s) in lieu of printed copies and approve the same.** Motion by Wegner to approve the minutes. Second by Manning. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Election of Officers.** Motion by Hallett to re-appoint Elliott as President. Second by Manning. Motion by Wegner to re-appoint Lewandowski as Vice President. Second by Elliott. Motion by Elliott to re-appoint Manning as County Rep. and approve Mark Chambers as City Council Rep. Second by Woodhouse. Motions carried unanimously.

**4. Discussion and possible approval on the following Sanctioned Recreation Groups:**

**A. Richland Center Rockets- Home Talent Baseball Team**

Motions by Wegner to approve Richland Center Rockets Home Talent Baseball as a Sanctioned Rec Group. Second by Lewandowski. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Discussion and possible approval to adopt Model Policy for Tobacco Free Parks as recommended by the Partners for Prevention Coalition of Richland County.** Members of Youth 4 Change, Partners 4 Prevention, as well as Sgt. Lauren Moe were in attendance. Students asked questions of the Board as to what they wanted to see happen in the Parks. Chambers inquired what the group was looking to accomplish, and they explained their goals for a Tobacco Free Parks Ordinance to protect our youth from secondhand smoke and taking the ease of using tobacco at an early age away as much as possible. Elliott stated the Park Board would not make an ordinance or rule but would allow the group to make or purchase signage for Board approval to post in the parks asking for smoke free playgrounds and areas where kids congregate and play. Lewandowski stated that enforcement would be the main issue, Hallett said it would be impossible to enforce. Manning had concerns anticipating an overabundance of phone calls to the RCPD. Sgt. Moe stated that if an ordinance was adopted, they would first give a warning, then a citation. Roesler stated they were still going to pursue and ordinance through City Council. Motion by Manning to approve Youth 4 Change & Partners 4 Prevention to make signage for the Parks. Second by Woodhouse. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. Discussion and possible approval of Pickleball Federation to purchase wind nets for court fences, that would be installed and removed seasonally, as well as storage options.** Fry had concerns with possible obstruction of camera view and would check on it the following day. Concerns about the nets causing damage to our fences was discuss and decided that it

would be like the mesh banners that were made for Star Spangled and deemed safe, and that once the specific variables for the banners were approved by Mieden, the Federation could purchase and install nets. Motion to approve use of funds by Lewandowski. Second by Hallett. Motion carried unanimously.

**7. Approval of payment of monthly bills.** Motion by Hallett to approve payment of the bills. Second by Manning. Motion carried unanimously.

**9. Staff Reports:**

**A. Senior Coordinator:** Heffner submitted written report. Sr. Center activities continue to be popular and bring in new people every month. She reported that they had nine people take the trip to Nashville and had a wonderful time. Eleven people were registered so far for the Brewers trip for June 10th, and it has been a very popular trip in the past. The RASC group has been gaining membership and it a great way for seniors to meet people and socialize.

**B. Parks and Recreation Director:** Mieden reported rentals, walkers and open gym has been very busy. The Spring/Summer Recreation Guides have received lots of compliments about the new color layout, and there are a bunch of new signups for programs. Summer Staff is looking very good for numbers so far and we are ramping up training for the season. New Rec and Pool hours were announced. The pool has been started up with the help of City Utilities, McGuire and Culligan. The pool has been drained and cleaned and we are ready for Badger to come for startup on the 17th. RSD and the Cub Scouts partnered with us for a Community Garden workday with the gardeners at Old Millpond Park and have plans for future collaboration. Mieden met with Mick Cosgrove and Aaron Joyce to clear up all pool donations and planned to finish collection of donations in the future. Cosgrove is providing a historical binder for the Woodman Aquatic Center donations.

**C. Parks and Grounds Superintendent:** Fry reported that the Cemetery has been very busy this month and he anticipates they will be very busy preparing it for Memorial Day. Volunteer Flag disbursement is set for the year. Arbor Day tree planting was pushed back a week due to issues on the RSD side. Three part-time mowers have been working very well and the summer staff is looking good for the season. The Basketball court will be overlaid this season when they come to do the streets. Hoops can be raised to accommodate the higher surface.

**10. Park Board President's report.** Elliott had no issues to report. Planning to assist in pool startup in early May with Fry and Mieden. Elliott welcomed Mark Chambers to Park Board.

**11. Reports, requests, etc.** Wegner reported that there were some issues in North Park with exposed fence posts sticking out of a ditch that is a safety hazard. He also commented that bases and plugs continue to come up missing on our diamonds and issues with concession stand. He mentioned that the ADA swing at Old Millpond Park was missing 1 chain. Fry reported that the issues would be taken care of.

**12. Adjournment.** Motion by Manning to adjourn the meeting. Second by Wegner. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Jodi Mieden.