

## 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, Brad Wegner, Gary Manning, County Board, Parks & Rec Dir. Jodi Mieden, Parks and Grounds Supt, Dave Fry, Madelyn Bauer, Summer REC Supervisor, Lizzie Forehand, Pool Manager.  
Absent- Larry Hallett, Mark Chambers, City Council.

**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 Woodhouse to approve the minutes.

Second by Manning

Final Resolution: Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Discussion and possible approval of waived fees for Civic Event “Free for All for Freedom”.**

Bessie Varvitsiotes and friends attended to ask for a waived fee for her event. She explained the need for veterans and kids to know that we as a community stood behind them in these interesting times. She noted general morale seemed low and kids seem to be scared and are acting out way too much, and the suicide numbers have grown out of control. She wants to teach flag folding, have a bake sale, food donated by herself, and allow the Park & Rec, Red Cross, American Legion, Womens Auxillary VFW, RCPD and RCFD to have booths to discuss why they are here and how they can help. These groups received a \$500 donation in the past from the VFW and she wanted to have this event to raise funds to donate to these groups again. She requested September 17<sup>th</sup> in the gymnasium. Manning mentioned that we did not have discounts or waived fees at this time, but offered to and paid for her event personally.

Motion by Wegner to approve the event be paid for by Manning and reserved in the rental books.

Second by Lewandowski

Final Resolution: Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Discussion and possible approval of Aquatic Center altered schedule & seasonal closing date.**

Operating hours and final day at the Aquatic Center were presented. Due to employee high school sports schedules and results from an employee survey taken, the pool will run an altered and shortened schedule the last week of the season. Hours to be Monday-Friday 11am-3pm, Saturday-Sunday 12pm-3pm. The final day of the pool will be August 27<sup>th</sup>. Staff will be on hand on the 28<sup>th</sup> to do teardown.

Motion by Manning to approve the amended hours and final date.

Second by Woodhouse

Final Resolution: Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Discussion of fundraising progress for the Aquatic Center's 2<sup>nd</sup> slide and other pool needs.**

Elliott was approached by Southwest Partners stating that they wanted to do something for the pool to show some action on fundraising progress and suggested a 2<sup>nd</sup> diving board. Mieden had asked the managers to review pool usage in the deep end to see if a 2<sup>nd</sup> board was feasible with the space. Both Bauer and Forehand, as well as Lewandowski and Wegner reported that if we were to put in another board, it would leave no room for any actual swimming to happen in the deep end during open swim times. The board had voted no in the past on the subject and after discussion it was decided to keep the layout as is, with one diving board. Woodhouse noted the music situation we currently have is not up to code and we need to look to community businesses for potential sponsorship for a new system that included a PA System. Lewandowski and Wegner brought up shading needs for the concession area, pool deck, as well as the splash pad area. Elliott mentioned that he had a 3<sup>rd</sup> Funbrella base that could be used in the splash pad area, we just needed to procure the frame and fabric.

**6. Approval of payment of monthly bills.**

Mieden brought a revised bills listing from the previous month that had an error on it, and should have been \$2589.56 less than the sheet reported.

Motion by Manning to approve payment of the monthly bills.

Second by Wegner.

Final Resolution: Motion carried unanimously.

**6. Staff Reports:**

**A. Senior Coordinator:** Heffner reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> Diamond Jo bus trip currently has 32 passengers signed up and she needs 40 to receive the casino perks of free play/food ticket. Pool has been very popular these days, sometimes 3 or 4 times a day. The table was originally donated by Alan Halink. New people have been attending Bingo on Monday mornings, many have memory issues, and she is able to assist them happily when needed. Lots of puzzles have been donated to us and there is always one being put together, and once done it is donated to someone to take home.

**B. Parks and Recreation Director:** Mieden reported that our 3 hour pool inspection went very well on August 1<sup>st</sup>. We were only cited on a missing screw in our shephard's hook so we will call it a win. Inspectors were impressed with our organization and recordkeeping. We were cited on a residential refrigerator in concessions and have 2 years to replace it. Will see if we can contract with Pepsi for a commercial cooler. We also needed to use time as a control for the pizza and cheese bread and came up with solutions for that right away to email off to the inspectors. We will need to up our license from Simple to Moderate because of the new pizza/cheese bread offerings, which will incur a \$75 extra cost. We scheduled McGuire and Neuman for pool shutdown in October, and plan to do most of the work on our end if we can to save costs. We received a good report for revenues this season not only at the admission side, but with concessions and rec programs, as well as rentals and camping.

**C. Summer Recreation Supervisor:** Bauer reported that Rec programs were well attended, as well as all of the new events we had, except for cancelling the 3-on-3 tournament due to low registration. Parents gave feedback on our new programming scheduling and we may revisit the hours again for 2024. Coaches have planned for 2024 programs as well as fall/winter 2023 programs. Woodhouse recommended working with RSD to coordinate with them to bridge any gaps on reaching kids with programming information.

**D. Pool Manager:** Forehand reported that in her experience and from co-worker feedback, she has felt unprepared for any emergency if it had come up. This year we implemented monthly in-service trainings with EMS, PD dispatch, P4P and Passages to keep the training fresh in their minds and take a little of the nervousness away for pool staff. Putting staff in real-life situations to help their training was a key goal this year. We had 14 rescues this year and we are proud to say they never turned life-threatening due to the diligence of our staff. New trainings will be implemented sooner in 2024 and will be on-going. Having a manager on site during open hours helped to keep the pool running smoothly.

**E. Parks and Grounds Superintendent:** Fry reported that the Cemetery remains busy but has become quitter. We are fighting with pond scum and vandalism in our parks, but improvements continue to be made as needed. Street Department is short-handed so we are helping them out as much as possible with brush pickup. Fry reported this was his last meeting before retiring in October and was disappointed in the way it is all ending. He plans to get the BBall court sealed before he leaves. Spencer Reed will be taking over as Superintendent of Maintenance when Fry retired October 6<sup>th</sup>.

**9. Park Board President's report.** Elliott reported that he received very good compliments on the improvements made in the Recreation Department this year. He also reported that he has enjoyed and valued working with Fry all these years and that he should be proud of all he has done and accomplished in his time working for the City of Richland Center. Elliott thanked Fry for his dedication and service. Lewandowski thanked him for his leadership and good things accomplished.

**10. Reports, requests, etc.** Wegner thanked Fry for the work done on the Brown shed in North Park to replace the door and fix the backstop fencing. He reported vandalism at Old Mill Pond Park to the shelter electrical boxes and water fixtures. Manning commented that cameras are needed there in the future. Lewandowski reported the pool was wonderful this year and she heard lots of compliments on it throughout the season.

**11. Adjournment.**

Motion by Manning to adjourn the meeting.

Second by Woodhouse

Final Resolution: Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Jodi Mieden.