Harrisburg Parks, Recreation & Forestry Board

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation & Recreation Board was called to order on June 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., with Scott Langerock presiding. Members present were Shannon Gustafson, Jason Nelson, Chris Kuntz, Ryan Berg, Taylor Berg, Heather Stolsmark and Elizabeth Heidinger. Also present were Jason Thurston from the City, Mayor Wenck, Kevin Maxwell, Cheyenne Chontos from the Harrisburg Library, John Sutton from the HBA, and David Locke from Stockwell Engineers.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Consent Agenda: Motion Kuntz, seconded by T. Berg to approve the consent agenda as presented.

1. Approved Agenda – Declaration of any Potential Conflict of Interest

2. Approved May 8, 2024 Parks, Recreation & Forestry Board Meeting Minutes

Upon roll call, all members present in favor.

Business Items:

The last day of school party was attended by 800 residents.

An update from the Harrisburg Baseball Association noted that the High School had completed their season, and the recreational season is now in full swing. Langerock reported that a meeting was held earlier in the day between the HBA, School District, City and other stakeholders to discuss the approaching bid deadline for Championship Field near the High School. The project would include six fields for softball and youth baseball. The total bid is $1,873,000 and the deadline is July 4th. The School is contributing around $445,000 to complete additional parking and cover half of the infield turf; the City is planning to cover the remaining $132,000 for the other half of the infield turf, and the HBA has fundraised around $1 million, but there remains a gap of approximately $200,000 to complete the project. Discussion was had on whether or not the Parks, Recreation & Forestry Board should request the remaining funds from the City, to be used from savings.

A motion was made by T. Berg and seconded by Kuntz to recommend that City Council contribute up to $150,000 from savings to complete the Championship Ballfield. R. Berg abstained, all others in favor, motion carried.

Further discussion was had on funding requests for the 2025 budget, with focus on phases 1.2 and 1.3 of the Central Park plan.

A motion was made by Nelson and seconded by R. Berg to request that the City designate $1.7 million to complete phases 1.2 and 1.3 of the Central Park Master Plan. All in favor, motion carried.

Staff Reports:

National Night Out volunteers are needed on August 6; anticipating a similar crowd size from past years.

Locke provided an update on the Trails Plan; the advisory committee has met and is collecting public input. Surveys will be accepted throughout June and July, with a goal to have a plan completed in November.

Thurston reported that they continue to prepare the protocols for Emerald Ash Borer, and that they have completed a list of recommended boulevard trees.

With no further business, a motion was made by Kuntz, seconded by T. Berg, to adjourn the Parks, Recreation & Forestry board meeting at 7:30 p.m. Upon roll call, all members present in favor.

The next regular meeting of the Harrisburg Parks & Rec Board will be held at 6:00 pm on July 10, 2024.

Submitted by Shannon Gustafson, Secretary.