Harrisburg Parks, Recreation & Forestry Board

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation & Recreation Board was called to order on November 13, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., with Scott Langerock presiding. Members present were Taylor Berg, Ryan Berg, Shannon Gustafson, Heather Stolsmark and Elizabeth Heidinger. Also present were Jason Thurston from the City, Alderman Kevin Maxwell, Librarian Cheyenne Chontos, David Locke from Stockwell Engineers, HBA, and Shaun Murphy-Lopez from Toole Design.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

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

2. Approved October 9, 2024 Parks, Recreation & Forestry Board Meeting Minutes

Upon roll call, all members present in favor.

Business Items:

The Harrisburg Baseball Association is reaching completion of the concessions building.

Shaun Murphy-Lopez of Toole Design presented the draft Harrisburg Trails Plan. The purpose of the plan is to coordinate with city, county and neighboring communities to develop a safe and accessible trails system. The system will aim to connect residential areas with popular destinations in Harrisburg, provide safe crossings, and provide opportunities for exercise and recreation. They aim to build greenways near waterways and potentially add underpasses. They hope to use federal funding to assist with construction and maintenance, and intend to update the plan every five years.

The board discussed the best way to prioritize trail construction based on level of traffic on roads, safety of crossings, feasibility, cost, demand, high density housing areas, parks, and schools. The plan will be presented to City and the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in January.

Thurston shared the awards and signage for the Holiday Lighting Competition.

Thurston reported that they received a $3,000 grant from Farm Credit Services of America for upgrades to the community gardens.

Maxwell reported that an offer has been accepted by Harrisburg’s new City Administrator, who plans to start in January.

With no further business, a motion was made by R. Berg and seconded by T. Berg to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 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 January 8, 2025. The December meeting will be replaced with a tour of holiday lighting.

Submitted by Shannon Gustafson, Secretary.