**City of White House**

**Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Department**

**Leisure Services Board Meeting**

**September 5, 2024**

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Jim Varellie.

1. Present were Jim Varellie, Maureen Boling Jana Spicer, Morgan Holloway, Carlos Payne, Mark Smith, Gerald Herman, Kevin Whittaker, Jason Reynolds, Selena Clouse, Steven Russell and Linda Brooks.
2. A motion was made by Morgan and seconded by Carlos to adopt the agenda. Vote: all in favor / none opposed.
3. Approval of Minutes from the May 2nd, 2024 Meeting – Jana made a motion to approve the May 2nd, 2024 minutes and Mark seconded the motion. Vote: all in favor / none opposed.
4. Public Comment: None
5. A motion was made by Jana and seconded by Morgan to approve The Director, Assistant Director and Maintenance Supervisor’s report. Vote: all in favor / none opposed.
6. Action Items
7. Monthly Report – Kevin put on view the monthly report numbers for June and briefly gave details. This report is comparing present month to same month of previous years and is effectively an end of year report since June is the last month of the fiscal year. Ballfield rentals have decreased this season. We have seen an increase in our adult programs. However, we did not have enough teams sign up for adult softball and basketball for a league to make this fall, so these numbers will come down next year. There was a discussion concerning Jr. Pro football using the softball field for extra practice space during the fall season when we would have needed it if our softball league had made. Jana stated that she has questions about football using this field. There was much discussion concerning this with suggestions of checking on a partnership with schools or maybe charging more.

Special Event numbers are good (Trail of Treats helps increase that number). Our plans are to have Trail of Treats in the front of the park again this year. Morgan asked about moving it to the back of the park to help with parking. Kevin added that we did not hear of any problems with parking last year and would prefer to keep it in the front with the hayride that we do through the football stadium. The Sr. Citizens program numbers have increased as well as the overall participation. All numbers are looking pretty good now. Mark suggested showing dollar values on budget charts. It was also suggested to start giving quarterly reports instead of monthly at Leisure Services Board meetings.

1. Cemetery Report- We haven’t had as many burials this year making our numbers lower on ground and cremain burials.

Old Business

1. Rec Center Update – Jerry gave an up-date on the Rec Center. There was a walk-through on Wednesday. A lot of work has been done in the last three

weeks. Jana asked when the board might be able to see the center. It was decided to try and do a walk-through before the November meeting. He discussed the plan for adding more parking spaces when the old gym is taken down.

1. Fees- Kevin asked to discuss the rec center fees again since he was not sure there was 100% agreement at the last meeting. This will not take effect until next year and will not need a full confirmation but need to review it with any suggestions or comments. College students on break should be able to use it. Weight Room should not be available to age 12 and under.
2. Non-resident Fees –No change for non-resident fees.
3. City Staff and family fees – Jana suggested that someone talk to Amanda concerning the insurance and fitness center. Some insurance companies offer discounts for fitness centers.
4. Active-Duty Military & Veterans- It was decided to allow charging Active Duty Military or Veterans the Senior Citizens pricing.
5. Department Fees – We have not come up with a deposit fee refund yet. Morgan added that we might want to add a cleaning fee along with the deposit. Jerry added that we might have to have someone come extra days to clean. Kevin stated that we won’t know for sure about the staff until we get in. We may need to add more at that time. It was also decided to give a 50% discount to non-profits for meeting spaces.
6. Aquatics – There was a discussion about what type of facility we would want to see. An outdoor pool is a cheaper option but not preferred. A full-scale aquatics center was the consensus among the board. This would be something that be years out but we would like to start the discussion now. Jason was tasked with seeing what it would look like to add this to the Byrum Park plans.
7. Pickleball – Kevin asked if what has been done over the last few months is enough to get us by until Byrum Park courts are built. All agreed it was not enough and that we should look at other options to put permanent courts. There was much discussion about potential areas, including Northwoods Park and a couple areas at the Soccer Complex. Kevin brought up that we have a fitness area close to the maintenance building at the park that has gotten rundown and doesn’t seem to get used a lot and now the insurance company wants us to spend money to fix it up. There could be enough space there for some pickleball courts if we decided to remove it. All agreed that the fitness area should be removed and this area should be included in the potential options for future courts. Jason will take measurements and check on all the options discussed and report back.
8. New Business
9. Special Event Policy – Will bring back Special Event Policy

B. Fitness Area – Discussed earlier for Pickle Ball Courts

1. Christmas Parade – Morgan listed two options and their qualifications.

She will check with them for availability on parade date.

Next Meeting – November 7, 2024

1. Adjournment - A motion was made by Morgan to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Jana. Vote: all in favor / none opposed

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Chairman