

Meeting Minutes: Owatonna Park Board - UNAPPROVED

Date: September 14, 2020

Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Board Members	Present	Absent	Others Present, Staff	Others Present, Guests
Andi Arnold	X		Jessica Abrahams, Administrative Technician	Kevin Raney, City Council Member
David Christianson		X	Tim Truelson, Recreation Manager	Doug Voss, City Council Member
Nicholas Elsner, Vice-Chair	X		Troy Klecker, Community Development Director/Parks and Recreation Interim Director	
Angie Malo, Secretary	X		Eric Anderson, Recreation Manager	
Jonathan Thiel	X		Dani Licht, Recreation Supervisor	
Greg Posch, Chair	X		Dani Bakken, Recreation Supervisor	
Jonathan Douglas		X		

Topic/Item	Summary of Discussion	Action
Items previously disseminated	Correspondence (incoming): None	
Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 4:30pm	
Approval of Agenda		Motion: Nicholas Elsner Second: Jonathan Thiel Approved
Approval of Minutes	August 17, 2020 Minutes	Motion: Nicholas Elsner Second: Angie Malo Approved
Persons wishing to appear	<p>Greg Engstrom, Marie Engstrom, Diane LaVallie, Steven LaVallie, Ann Christensen and Perry Christiansen were present. They are all neighbors of Manthey Park and have concerns about parking, the amount of activities taking place, green space being taken up, and safety. There are people using the park after hours, driving their vehicles on the trail, and throwing large amounts of garbage in the garbage cans. They are also concerned about the placement of the soccer goals as they get used a lot and get very busy and noisy with foul language. Troy Klecker explained that the location of the soccer nets is temporary and will be moved, probably by the pavilion. Troy also stated that he will address the language when he meets with the group who primarily utilizes that soccer field. Troy explained that the parking lot is being expanded and at least 50 more spaces will be added, and we are working a new design to make it less convenient for people to pull up and throw their garbage in the garbage cans. Additionally, we are adding cameras and signage to parks this year; Dartts Park will get cameras this year and the goal is to eventually have cameras in all the parks. Andi Arnold stated she is the coordinator for Steele County Safe and Drug Free Coalition, and invited the Manthey neighbors to join one of the Coalition's upcoming meetings.</p> <p>Park Tour – A tour of the park was led by Tim Truelson. Tim showed the group where the new playground and Miracle Field will go. He explained how</p>	

	<p>everything will be accessible, with the trail leading up to each amenity. The playground will be placed on a rubber surface and have curbing around it. A building with handicap restrooms will be added by the Miracle Field. There are plans to remove the volleyball and the horseshoe courts. A park neighbor was concerned about removing the volleyball court and would like to see it remain at the park. A park neighbor asked if anything is being done at south Manthey. Troy Klecker reported there are no plans to change anything there and the gate will remain closed. A park neighbor also asked if anything can be done to deter people from driving on the trail as they see many people doing this. Troy and Tim will look into adding additional signage to address this issue. Troy Klecker also explained that we'd like to have the main park roadway extended to 3rd Avenue and a trail added next to the roadway; however, this would require acquiring land from the church adjacent to the park. A park neighbor stated he would like to see a row of pine trees planted on the west side of the park, similar to the ones on the east side.</p>	
<p>Park Permits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. September 14, 2020 – Big Brothers Big Sisters Match Activity at BBBS green space b. September 24, 2020 – Martial Arts Event at Gainey Park c. September 25, 2020 – Communal Christian Worship at Central Park d. October 1, 2020 – Pizza in the Park at Central Park (Federated fundraiser for United Way) 	<p>Motion: Nicholas Elsner Second: Andi Arnold Approved</p>
<p>Staff Reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 2019 and 2020 YTD Budget through September 10, 2020 – Troy Klecker reported revenue has been lost due to programs being cancelled, but we have also saved in expenses. There have been some unexpected expenses this year; our current software's platform will no longer be supported by Microsoft, so we had to purchase a new software system. Additionally, cameras are being added in some parks this year and the demolishing of the house on Rice Lake Street are also expenses not planned for this year. b. Aquatics – A report was handed out which included a recap of River Springs Water Park's and Lake Kohlmier's operations this summer. Some of the highlights from River Springs Water Park included opening safely during the pandemic, good weather, and a veteran staff. Some of this year's challenges included capacity limits and areas being closed due to COVID, deck repairs, and staffing towards the end of the summer. Additionally, there were three leaks found in the pool this year, the filtration system will need to be replaced as parts are not available for the current one, and as the water park ages, other items will need to be replaced. Dani Licht also mentioned that Water Aerobics was very successful this year and adding afternoon programming was a popular addition which they hope to carry over to next year. Doug Voss asked how old the water park was. Dani Licht reported it just completed its 12th year. Eric Anderson made note that as the water park ages, they are replacing items with more updated, modern items which should last longer and cost less to maintain. Dani Bakken reported on Lake Kohlmier. Highlights of the summer included opening during the pandemic, increased usage of Lake Kohlmier beach, a large increase in concession sales and modifying hours to better fit busier days and times. Challenges included a large increase in teen presence and issues with individuals following rules. Equipment was 	<p>Troy Klecker reported</p> <p>Dani Licht and Dani Bakken reported</p>

	<p>rented out approximately 11% of the time. Angie Malo stated she made a point of driving through and around Lake Kohlmier every weekend and it was busy every weekend. She thought it was great to see so many people getting outdoors and wondered if it'd be worth it to get more equipment and if there's opportunity to grow and take advantage of the new found love again for the lake and lake area. Kevin Raney agrees that it's nice to see families using the beach again and would like to see more play features there, but storage is an issue. Troy Klecker stated his appreciation for staff getting River Springs Water Park and Lake Kohlmier open this summer.</p>	
Unfinished Business	<p>a. COVID-19 updates – Eric Anderson reported the Tennis Center is planning on opening September 28, the pool will open on this date for programming. Dani Bakken reported West Hills Social Commons is also set to open September 28. Therapeutic Recreation is on hold and Dani Bakken is looking into offering virtual programs. Jonathan Thiel asked if we have hired a Tennis Pro. Eric Anderson reported we have not hired a Tennis Pro and are looking into options with the Owatonna Tennis Association to offer tennis lessons this fall/winter. Troy Klecker reported the front office area is being modified to better protect against COVID and Tim Truelson is offering as much programming as possible.</p> <p>b. We All Play – Tim Truelson reported the playground at Morehouse has been taken out and the Manthey playground will be moved within the next week or two. Angie Malo would like to get information out to people about the Manthey playground not being available for the next several months. She'd like the information to be included in mass emails and posted on social media. Tim will get the information out and look into putting a banner up at Manthey Park with information.</p> <p>c. Cross Bows at the Archery Park – Troy Klecker reported there are no updates on this, and staff is looking into options.</p>	<p>Troy Klecker, Eric Anderson and Dani Bakken reported</p> <p>Tim Truelson reported</p> <p>Troy Klecker reported</p>
New Business	<p>a. None</p>	
Board Questions/ Comments	<p>Angie Malo – She's concerned about the changes to the Brooktree parking lot and wondering how it's a good redesign. Troy Klecker reported the walking path will no longer run through the parking lot to make it safer, but the lot itself is not being redesigned. There were potential plans to redesign it; however, some members stated they didn't want it redesigned. She is also concerned about the railroad ties at Brooktree that are holding up the landscaping; they seem to be rotting. Troy will bring it up to Jesse Wilker. Angie has a question about what is allowed to be discussed at meetings and would like to see a copy of the Park Board's bylaws. Troy will check into the bylaws.</p> <p>Nicholas Elsner – None</p> <p>Andi Arnold – None</p> <p>Jonathan Thiel – None</p>	

	Greg Posch – Brooktree phone is not clear and hard to understand when he calls there. Troy Klecker will look into it.	
Adjournment	Adjourned at 6:02pm	Motion: Angie Malo Second: Jonathan Thiel Approved
Next Meeting	Monday, October 12, 2020	