

AUSTIN PARKS, RECREATION, AND FORESTRY BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 3, 2022
JAY C. HORMEL NATURE CENTER
5:15 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Helen Jahr-Chairperson, Chris Grev, Justin Hanson, Cece Kroc, DeeDee Marx and Rebecca Waller,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nik Johnsen

OTHERS PRESENT: Dave Merrill, Riley Donovan and Patti Hamilton

Moved by Ms. Grev seconded by Ms. Waller to approve the August agenda with additions. Carried.

Moved by Ms. Waller, seconded by Ms. Kroc to approve the July minutes. Carried.

Moved by Ms. Waller, seconded by Ms. Grev to approve the July bills. Carried.

Discussions were held on the Capital budget progress and where we were currently in the process. Drilled down conversation about the Municipal Pool were had and a motion by Ms. Grev and seconded by Ms. Kroc to add \$100,000 to the budget as a placeholder for upcoming but unknown expenses we are expecting and see if these dollars stay in the process. Final review of the community survey for Master Plan is done and out to the public, the new web page is moving forward, the roles and duties of the Park & Rec board and charter was discussed and the various Community Meetings held around town were shared with more scheduled yet and the feedback has been very good from them.

Moved by Ms. Kroc, seconded by Mr. Hanson to approve a contribution of \$5,000 for the feasibility study for the Cedar River Whitewater project. Carried.

Moved by Ms. Kroc, seconded by Ms. Waller to approve the location of the unified (new & old) playground structure at Wildwood Park on the west side of the trail. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Hanson, seconded by Ms. Grev to approve the acceptance of an AmeriCorps Community Forestry Corps employee (or two) for an 11-month position. Carried.

Moved by Ms. Grev, seconded by Ms. Kroc to approve hosting the 2022 Springer Spaniel national trials at East Side Lake November 17-21, 2022. Carried.

Moved by Ms. Grev, seconded by Ms. Marx to allow the Darrin Dash to use Lafayette Park on October 8, 2022 at no charge this year. Carried.

Moved by Ms. Marx, seconded by Ms. Grev to get the upcoming Nature Center retirement position posted, filled and a start date of December 1st 2022, to allow for a month of overlap and training. Carried.

Moved by Ms. Grev, seconded by Ms. Waller to approve Mr. Merrill, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry to attend the NRPA national Conference in Phoenix, AZ September 19-22, 2022. Carried.

Discussions on the need and potential purchases of 2-way radios, a revision to the Emergency Action Plan for the Hormel Nature Center, fire turnout gear and a wildflower program were had. Also discussed was the backstop replacement project at Riverland, drone footage of potential projects and the use of the Lydia Lien funds.

Board Reports:

Mr. Hanson said “thank you” for openness and access.

Staff Reports:

Mr. Donovan explained the summer programs have now ended and things went well. The Rolling Rec program was attended pretty good, kids really seemed to enjoy it and was going well. The MSF baseball tourney is happening and the VFW State baseball tourney at Riverland starts tomorrow.

Mr. Merrill shared an update on the Bruins contract and stated the parks bathroom floors are coming along nicely and they look good and should help in the cleaning and appearance of them.

Guest Mr. Don Smith a local Master Gardener and Spruce Up Austin member shared his “tree” findings and documentation at the Disc Golf courses, noting future plans and growth of the courses are being looked at as well.

Moved by Ms. Grev, seconded by Ms. Waller to adjourn the meeting to September 7th at 5:15 PM at the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center. Carried.

Adjourned: 7:31 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Hamilton