

AUSTIN PARKS, RECREATION, AND FORESTRY BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2022
JAY C. HORMEL NATURE CENTER
5:15 P.M.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Justin Hanson, Nik Johnsen,

OTHERS PRESENT: Dave Merrill, Randy Hofner, Luke Reese, Patti Hamilton and Tricia Branden

Moved by Ms. Grev seconded by Ms. Waller to approve the November agenda. Carried.

Moved by Ms. Marx, seconded by Ms. Waller to approve the October minutes. Carried.

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

Discussions held included:

- A: A Thank you from Austin Fire Dept. for 4th Grade Poster Contest was shared
- B: Greater Mn Regional Parks & Trails Commission Legacy was awarded to N.C.
- C: Mediation process & discussions were shared
- D: Looking into rental policies and rates for organization/field usage
- E: Board retreat will be scheduled in Feb. 2023
- F: Looking to maintain some outdoor walking trails
- G: Potential interest of a "Friends of the Parks & Rec"
- H: Update of misc. projects: Dog Park, position at the NC, Park board seats,
- I: Flag display application – more review and will bring back
- J: EAB update & planning – MDA will be here to lay out a plan for us to use and help communicate with the public.
- K: Downtown winter décor will now fall under the "Flower Budget" within our dept.

Moved by Ms. Grev, seconded by Ms. Kroc to formally request and support Ms. Waller to remain on the Board since there will be two upcoming open seats. Carried.

Moved by Ms. Waller, seconded by Ms. Marx to approve the request from the Community Learning Center to use the Ruby Rupner on Dec. 1st for a one time no charge rate due to their recent displacement. Carried.

Board Reports:

Ms. Kroc was happy the school's referendum has passed.

Staff Reports:

Mr. Donovan stated the arenas are busy through March 2023, 99 kids are participating in the Youth Basketball program, Victory VB had 120 tryout with 115 of those from Austin. Jr. Curling has 5-10 participants trying curling at their Try Curling Program.

Mr. Hofner said Kaufman warming house should be ready in time for ice skating with a youth group already excited to skate, Ruby siding/repairs is getting wrapped up and EAB is a huge project.

Mr. Merrill shared he's working with Cedar River Water Shed at Todd Park to add some prairie, 20 deer have been harvested so far, the Master Plan project has 673 respondents so far with a final push to get more, coming soon to East Side Lake is the Springer Spaniel National Trials, the Police Auction sold several items for us and vandals are destroying newly planted trees.

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

Adjourned: 7:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Patti Hamilton