

Parks and Recreation Board  
 August 19, 2021 – 4:00 p.m.  
 Parks, Recreation & Civic Facilities, 1920 Grand Avenue

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Members' Term Attendance</u> (mtgs attended-mtgs absent)	<u>End of Current Term of Office</u>
<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Clark, Chris	(13-10)	02/11/24
	Heim, Michael	(16-7)	02/03/24
	Lanham, Annette	(12-1)	02/03/25
	Luedtke, Patti	(10-0)	08/31/25
	Montegna, Eric	(1-0)	06/28/26
	Mooney, Scott	(1-0)	06/28/26
	Supple-Bish, Mary	(18-5)	02/03/24
<b>MEMBERS ABSENT :</b>	Nelson, Pam	(21-2)	02/03/24
	Nelson, Scott	(10-1)	07/27/25

**STAFF PRESENT:** Chuck Kempf, Director Parks, Recreation & Civic Facilities  
 Jeff Atkins, Assistant Director Parks, Recreation & Civic Facilities  
 Jessica Oshel, Special Events & Communications Coordinator

**Call to Order.**

Chairman Chris Clark called the meeting to order at 4:05pm.

**ITEM #2 - Approval of minutes**  
 Approved

**ITEM #3 – Updates:**

- a. Update on Park Tax process – Passed around 71%. Campaign was well done, and all the members worked well together. They put together a quality video. Currently staff is completing a project schedule to be presented to the city manager. 1<sup>st</sup> version is a 10-year schedule with a pay as you go. 2<sup>nd</sup> version would be based on bonding. Bonding – recommends 10 million in 3-year increments to get more projects started earlier. This would get majority of projects completed in 7 years with the Wow! projects in the last 3 years. Council does seem responsive to bonding. The biggest concern is how we would handle/manage that many projects at one time, do we have the resources. Possibly redirect one of the city engineers to be devoted to our projects.

Scott Mooney – Pro & Cons of bonding

Answer – Con would be managing projects. Expectations if 30 million bonds, accomplish a percentage of projects within a 3-year period. Approximately 85% bonded projects. Would move some projects up at least 3 to 5 years than they would be on the unbonded list. Rolling stock, shelters, sidewalks would be spread throughout 10 years.

Chris Clark – believes bonding shows the good up front and then the Wow at end.

Funds will not begin coming in until the middle of city's fiscal year. The first 6 months some critical projects. There is a diverse range of projects.

Chuck Kempf will provide the board with the schedule as soon as possible.

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CITY CLERK

- b. Park Maintenance Challenges – Staffing and equipment main ongoing challenge. We do have a small inmate labor crew back. The inmates have a new set of criteria to qualify for work crews making it difficult for us to get more than a few a day or week. Some days only have 1 inmate working. Day Labor (homeless crew) don't get a lot of steady production. Sometimes it may only be one day for a few hours. We use them at Krug Park and Riverfront. Seasonal laborers (Temporary staffing employees) we have not been able to get a full crew of 12. At best we have 4, but equipment situation would make it difficult if we did have a full crew. A lot of equipment has not been operational for parts of the season. Our full time and supervisor staff have been out mowing
- c. River Bluff Trails Update – An additional employee was approved to work on trails. We hired a person who has been involved in the construction. Currently he is working on daily maintenance. Contractors will begin working again in the fall, they typically do not work in summer heat. Working acquiring the additional property. Should officially open Spring 2022. Worked with MWSU graphic arts intern to develop a logo for the trails.
- d. Hyde Park Splash Park Update – Liberty Oak Splash Park at Hyde Park opened on July 16. The Park is free and open 10am-8pm, 7 days a week. These hours will be modified with day light and weather. Aquatic staff have been on site and trying to provide guidance to patrons. Behavior has been an issue and we shouldn't have to have staff at a free facility.
- e. MWSU Pool Use Agreement – The agreement was up for renewal, expires at the end of August. Some council members do not see a value for the city. We provide assistance with their public usage. We will try to do a better job of offering lessons and usage. This depends on the renewal of the agreement. Initial agreement had the city contributing \$40,000 a year to MWSU. Aquatic supervisor helps with staff, training, instruction, etc. The relationship is disjointed between the city and MWSU. Good side to MWSU, we did a good job of marketing for lifeguards and hope the same for lessons.  
Eric Montegna – would like to see the numbers for usage for Aquatics  
Answer – we did increase % from 2 years ago. With the 2 sessions behavior has been a little better. Some of the trouble people can't stay all day which keeps some of the problem stuff down. Lap pool closed does help with a more family environment.
- f. Trail Development Requests – Technical aspects and challenges – We had had some issues with the established trails and users making changes that Parks is unaware they are doing. Application process, they would have to provide a detailed information/plan. Staff would review then present to board.  
Chris Clark – Prefer an application process be established with board voting. People could come to meeting, then go to council with boards recommendations.
- g. Naming Requests – Need basic criteria established. We don't want to rename something already established. Do we want them to be permanent or a time restriction? After number of years change. Need some kind of ground rules to be set.  
Chris Clark – Motion – In favor of boards being involved in naming – Approved by members present.  
Chris Clark – Trails - feels staff could make judgement calls based on various factors like where they are, type of trail, etc.  
Chuck Kempf – one criteria – wanting to name something it would have to be more beyond just liking something need to have made a contribution/impact to the area.

Scott Montegna – seems a lot of politics in naming something after someone. It would be easier if not tied to a person.

Chuck Kempf – It would make it easier since naming after someone can be emotional.

Mary Supple-Bish – If we had a form/application that would need to be completed, may deter a lot of people since they wouldn't make the effort to fill out something.

### **ITEM #3 – Upcoming Events**

- a. STEAM Festival – Friday and Saturday, August 20-21, Civic Center Park. We have developed informational parks of the parkway. There will be 3 interactive stops, ducks, cornhole, etc.
- b. Pickleball league registration open – Bode Sports Complex - \$30 per team, starts September 14.
- c. Social Media – Hot Dog Days of Summer – this was done last year as well. We have a gift basket for the winner of the online event.

### **ITEM #4 –Open Discussion**

- a. The Liberty Oak Splash Park – opened July 16. A large number of people attended and everyone seemed to enjoy the park.
- b. Park Passports – has gone over very well. We had over 500 registered kids, good turnout/response.
- c. St. Joe Fit – virtual, but still had a good turn out
- d. Will we try truck or Treat again this year?  
Jessica Oshel – Yes, maybe try somewhere different. Traffic backup was a big issue last year. Large number of people visited.
- e. Donations – Received donations for Trail Fitness Program from Rotary club, constructed new shelter at Bartlett Park donated by Kiwanis Club, and Schmidt Foundation \$10,000 to assist developing a new disc golf course.
- f. Chris Clark – Corby Pond status?  
Chuck Kempf – block has been ordered for the wall, until it arrives, they don't want to start dredging. We are told it must be started by January 1.

### **ITEM #5 –Public Comment**

No public comments

### **ITEM #6 - Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn meeting, seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, September 16, 2021, 4:00pm** at Parks, Recreation & Civic Facilities office, 1920 Grand Avenue.

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Lori Frederick, Executive Administrative Assistant