



PARK & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA

BUCKHAM WEST

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2023

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Minutes - March 22, 2023
3. Presentation - None
4. Director's Report
5. Requests to be Heard
6. Old Business
 - A. Community Center - Task Force Members Update
 - B. Vaduct Park Update
7. New Business
 - A. June Tour
8. Other
9. Next Meeting Date: June 28, 2023
10. Adjournment

FARIBAULT PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES FOR MARCH 22, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lola Brand, Carrissa Glarner, Sally Kramer, Chad Kreager, Mike Ross, Troy Temple and Chuck Thiele. MEMBERS ABSENT: None. STAFF PRESENT: Paul Peanasky, Parks and Recreation Director, and Denise Hansen, Administrative Coordinator. GUESTS: Biz Buffington, BMX.

- 1) Swearing in of New Board Members: Lola Brand, Carrissa Glarner, Mike Ross and Chuck Thiele were sworn in as Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members.
- 2) Meeting was called to order by Chad at 6:01 p.m.
- 3) Welcome to New Board Members: Those present introduced themselves and welcomed Carrissa Glarner and Chuck Thiele to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.
- 4) Election of Officers:
 - a. Chair: Motion made by Troy, seconded by Mike to nominate Chad as Chair. Motion passed.
 - b. Vice Chair: Motion made by Chuck, seconded by Carrissa to nominate Troy as Vice Chair. Motion passed. Chad continued leading the meeting.
- 5) Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Mike, seconded by Lola to approve minutes of October 26, 2022. Motion passed.
- 6) Presentation - BMX: Biz Buffington presented a review of the 2022 BMX season that was very similar to 2021. Biz reported the number of memberships increased in 2022 but membership prices will go up in 2023 due to increases in expenses. The BMX Board is planning some promotions this year to bring in young riders. Biz reported they rebuilt some of the track the end of 2021, a shade cover was installed in 2022 on the starting gate and they hope to redo the asphalt on some of the turns in 2023. Faribault BMX hosts a state qualifier race this year but not a gold cup race. She stated local races have an average of 60 racers a weekend, state qualifier races have an average of 300 racers and national races have approximately 800 racers. A national race is being held in St. Michael, Minnesota, this year and all Minnesota track personnel will help at this large event. Biz and the Board discussed sponsors for the Faribault track. She stated approximately 20% of the rider pool is from Faribault and riders from as far as Farmington and Rochester come to the Faribault track. They have two new board members this year so they're getting new people with younger riders involved. Biz stated they will need soil tack again this year. She also asked that camping be allowed in South Alexander Park the weekend of the state qualifier race and they will not have any racing on July 4th. Biz discussed their alarm system and the upgrades they were able to make this past year. Board thanked Biz for coming, for the update and for all the work they do for the races and the track.
- 7) Director's Report:
 - a) Water Break: Paul reported that due to a water pipe break under the pool, the community center was recently closed for a couple of partial days. It is now permanently repaired.

- b) River Bend Nature Center (RBNC): City Council is meeting with RBNC staff on April 18. RBNC stated they cannot keep up with capital improvements. Therefore, they are requesting a larger infusion of funds from the city and then they will not request assistance for a few years.
 - c) Buckham West Director: Mona Kaiser, Buckham West Director, is retiring and her last day is Friday, March 24. She has been the director for 20-plus years. Carla Pearson has been hired as her replacement and she will begin April 4.
 - d) Community Center Gymnasium Floor: The community center gym floor is starting to separate and pieces of the floor are popping up. The floor is the original floor so it is almost 50 years old. When it was sanded and refinished last year, the vibration caused the glue and the pieces to come loose. Paul contacted a company to repair the floor but that particular flooring is no longer available so it would look patched. Thus far, staff has been able to glue the loose pieces down. If the floor needed to be replaced, it would cost approximately \$100,000.
 - e) City Hall Projects: Paul reported that City Hall is not ADA compliant so remodeling projects are being designed for the second floor council chambers and restrooms. The third floor conference room is also being remodeled to make the room larger. And flooring on three of the floors at City Hall is being replaced.
- 8) Requests to be Heard: None.
- 9) Old Business:
- a) Update on Mill Towns Trail/Northern Links Trail: Paul stated there is nothing new regarding the Mill Towns Trail. Mark Duchene is working with the railroad regarding construction of the Northern Links Trail between North Alexander Park and Hulett Avenue. However, there have been delays due to issues within the railroad. Paul also stated that the differences between political parties currently has the \$400,000 funding for the link in limbo.
 - b) Community Center Task Force Members: The new community center task force currently includes Paul Peanasky, Kevin O'Brien, Brad Phenow, Dave Wanberg, Mark Duchene, Kevin Voracek, Peter von Sluis, Lola Band, Mike Ross, Chad Wolff, Mary Richie, and Gregg Goedde. Paul indicated they would like to get a Buckham West (Senior Center) member, a Somali community representative and a Hispanic community representative as well. The task force will help determine amenities of the center as well as a site.
 - c) Community Center RFQ Update: Council selected the Twin Cities firm called HGA to assist with development of a new community center. Council signed an agreement with them to assist with such things as site selection, amenities, demographic studies, what is affordable for a city our size and what an operating budget would be. We hope to have plans done by September, a resolution passed in December, submit the sales tax request to the state by January 30, 2024, so they can approve it and then it can go to the public for a vote in November of 2024.
 - d) Farmers' Market Update: Paul spoke with the Cannon Valley Farmers' Market and they are not using Central Park on Saturdays. Also, they have agreed to use the south side of Central Park on Thursdays this summer.

- e) Owatonna Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Joint Meeting: Owatonna would like to meet in April but HGA may also be at the meeting that night to discuss the new community center so we may meet with Owatonna in May instead. Troy left at 6:54pm.

10) New Business:

- a) Department Reorganization/New Hires: With Brad moving to City Hall as the Communications Manager for the city, the Parks and Recreation Department was reorganized. Kevin's title is now Parks and Recreation Superintendent, Denise is an Administrative Coordinator and Stacy moved to full time as an Administrative Assistant I. Devin Pewowaruk was hired as the Adult Recreation Programmer and Austin Thomas was hired as a permanent, part-time weekend receptionist. Also, a position for part-time custodial position was offered to someone today so hoping to fill that as well.
- b) Choose Playground for Bluebird Park: Paul stated twenty people responded to the request for input on the new playground equipment at Bluebird Park. Fourteen of them chose option 1, four chose option 2, one chose option 3 and one had no opinion. Paul indicated sidewalks will be installed around the playground and also to the swings. Board reviewed and agreed they preferred option 1. Board agreed to incorporate the color blue in the playground as the park is named Bluebird Park. Motion made by Chuck, seconded by Lola to approve option 1 for the playground equipment at Bluebird Park with the handicap-accessible item included. Motion passed.
- c) Assume Responsibility of Children's Fund, Tommy Allen Board and Peter Smith Board: Paul asked if the Board would want to assume fiscal responsibility of the Children's Fund, Tommy Allen Fund and Peter Smith Fund. Paul explained it is getting hard to get volunteers to serve on the boards for these entities. Responsibility for these could be assigned to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board beginning in 2024. Board agreed to take this fiscal responsibility beginning next year. Paul stated a resolution will need to be approved stating the same.
- d) Naming of Viaduct Park – Heritage Park, Pelagie Park: Paul indicated Tim Murray encouraged Brad Phenow to research park naming strategies. Board discussed Heritage Park, Pelagie Park and Viaduct Park as names currently suggested. Motion made by Lola, seconded by Chuck that they supported naming the park either Heritage Park or Viaduct Park. Motion passed. Also, Board suggested the murals in this park represent or depict some of the history of that specific area.

11) Other: None.

12) Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 26, at Buckham West.

13) Motion was made by Sally, seconded by Lola to adjourn at 7:37 p.m. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Hansen, Administrative Coordinator