

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

9:00 A.M.

Wednesday, September 4, 2024

Present: Steve VanHouse
Tracy Tiboni
Nathan Stadler
Shane Hoff
Jenny Bjerken
Gene LaFond

Absent: Dick Stern

Bryan Carpenter, Parks and Recreation Department
Dale & Janey Knaffla
Marcia Oates

VanHouse called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda – Motion by Tiboni, second LaFond to approve the Agenda as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Minutes – Motion by Stadler, second Bjerken to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2024 Regular Meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

COMMUNICATIONS – None at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Arena Update – Carpenter reports that summer programs are finished, building maintenance continues. Outdoor rink will be blacktopped soon for possible opening this fall. Arena ice will begin mid-October with new ice logo.

Marina Update – Marina has had a good summer, no complaints received. Discussion regarding DNR funding and Bayside Park area.

Black Beach Campground- Campground continues to be full on weekends, firewood sales have increased this year, summer help is done. Discussion regarding needing additional signage along East Lakeview Drive with arrows to campground and beaches, and replacement of cement dividers. Carpenter received a quote of approximately \$9000 for new sign, consensus of board was to purchase sign even though not in the budget. Dale Knaffla asked why handicap parking is available at Black Beach but not accessible to those in wheelchairs.

Marcia Oates suggested rerouting path to provide easier access and/or pads on beach for handicap. Discussion followed regarding making disability access and placement of picnic tables. Dale Knaffla thanked the board for what the campground brings to the community.

Fall Programs- Pony league football has large participation of 4th – 6th graders, flag football has lower numbers of 1st- 3rd graders. Pickleball and tennis programs continue.

Senior Workshop- Multi Modal Trailhead Center project has been finalized and moving forward but the senior workshop will remain open until construction begins. Carpenter has been in contact with the school and plans to have open house for seniors to tour woodshop area, rules and

available hours. Dale Knaffla expressed concern regarding school rules, access time, loading and who decides who can access woodshop. Discussion regarding allowing seniors to be involved in planning and rules, mentorship program, liability issues, and other potential locations for woodshop.

Five Year Plan- No update, tabled to next meeting to give Carpenter more time to work on budget aspect of plan.

NEW BUSINESS –

New Hire- Teresa Lindgren has accepted the position of Parks & Recreation Maintenance and Operations Manager. Her start date will be mid-September. Discussion followed regarding number of applicants and experience and qualifications. Chair VanHouse expressed concern about the youth programs, would like to see someone hired to focus on recreation programs. Carpenter stated he has ideas for the future, feels more will be hired as his department grows. Lack of summer help played a part in programs.

Janey Knaffla suggested the city consider hiring senior citizens for summer help. She was advised that any age over 16 is welcome to apply.

Discussion regarding the need to look into combining sports with Two Harbors, making it a priority to build sporting programs back up for the youth, potentially charging a parking fee at Black Beach, North Shore Area Partners considering developing a program of temporary help by seniors, and lack of use of swimming pool in the school.

Motion by Bjerken, second LaFond to adjourn at 9:55 a.m. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes taken by Lisa Christenson