

Watertown
Parks, Recreation and Forestry Board Meeting Minutes
June 25, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The Parks, Recreation and Forestry Board met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. at the Prairie Lakes Wellness Center.

ROLL CALL

Present upon roll call: Board members Graf, Johnson, Colberg, Keyes, Lalim, Liason Buhler

Absent: Board member Terronez & Leitheiser

Staff present: Rodiek, Lowe, Brandsrud, Maag, Hillis, Plocher

Guests: Amanda Mack, Mayor Holien, Rich Remmers, Dr. Andrea Hennen, Councilman Kyle Peters

PUBLIC COMMENT

DELEGATIONS

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Lalim, seconded by Colberg, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion Carried.

REGULAR AGENDA

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Keyes, seconded by Lalim, to approve the minutes from June 25, 2024 Board Meeting. Motion Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Royal Kids event recommendation

Mark Tracy and Mary Konvalin (Sheehan) from Royal Kids Camp discussed hosting an event at Jackson Park, designed exclusively for abused foster children. The camp is expected to include 52 children and 85 staff and volunteers. Full-time nurses and psychologists will be on-site for the children's needs. They are requesting to reserve a section of the park for their group and to use the dock for facilitating the children's access to jet skis and boats. The proposed time for the event is from 10 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. on July 31.

Motion by Lalim, seconded by Keyes, to close off a portion Jackson Park for this event. Motion Carried.

Update on Wellness Center Roof Top Unit's, Men's Steam room

Men's Steam Room

A discussion took place concerning the men's steam room at the Prairie Lakes Wellness Center. Renovations are necessary due to mold discovered in the steam room, despite the installation of a vapor barrier. To prevent future occurrences, a new vapor barrier will be installed, and the area will be treated with spray foam. Dehumidifiers will be employed to dry out the space, which will require periodic closure to allow the dehumidifiers to operate effectively. The estimated cost for the renovation is approximately \$46,000.00.

Roof Top Units

Seresco representatives visited the Prairie Lakes Wellness Center to inspect issues with the rooftop units. The objective is to maintain the units' functionality. They have encountered problems with rust, water, and air circulation. Our hope is to sustain these units for an additional three years, which would fulfill their expected 10-year lifespan. In the pool area, air circulation is problematic; the air appears to be moving near the ceiling but not throughout the space. Seresco's repairs and updates have the units operating at approximately 80% capacity. They recommend running fans in the pool area to aid air flow. A future maintenance plan is essential, requiring biannual servicing of these units. As no local companies possess the expertise for this task, we must depend on Seresco from Canada.

NEW BUSINESS

Baseball Field Planning - RDG conceptual design proposal

A discussion was held to determine whether to move forward with conceptual planning for a new legion field. Mayor Holien expressed that while he is not opposed to the project, he would prefer to wait until partnership roles between the school, City of Watertown and Baseball Association are better defined.

The item was tabled.

Review of Preliminary Zoo Accreditation report

Dr. Andrea Hennen and Stacy Plocher discussed the LAZS and the AZA accreditation process at Bramble Park Zoo. The zoo staff excelled in preparing for the AZA inspection, showcasing strong branding, maintenance, and veterinary services. Challenges identified include the need for additional signage, an overhaul of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion program, and updates to some small and outdated animal enclosures. The AZA recommended increasing outdoor time for the animals. Efforts to improve the partnership between the City and LAZS are underway, with Zoo Sustainability meetings continuing.

Ice Arena Alcohol license application - Watertown Shamrocks

A discussion took place concerning the alcohol license for the Prairie Lakes Ice Arena. The license, once approved, will apply to the entire building rather than specific groups using the facility. Its intended use is to allow the serving of alcohol at Watertown Shamrocks events.

SUPERINTENDENT AND STATUS REPORT

Director's Report

Status Reports: Recreation/WFAC

Maintenance and Status Reports: Parks and Forestry/City Park/Cemetery

Status Report: Prairie Lakes Wellness Center

Status Report: Cattail Crossing Golf Course

Maintenance and Status Report: Bramble Park Zoo

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion by Keyes, seconded by Colberg, to adjourn. Motion Carried.