

**City of Wyoming
Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 3, 2016**

Members present: Howard Krueger, Keith Desserich, Ralph Boss, Stephanie Hass, Dan Gordon, Holly Emch, and Beth Miller.

Staff members present: Rachel Leininger – Director of Recreation and Citizen Engagement

Others Present:

Citizen Participation:

None.

Call to Order:

Ms. Hass called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve the February minutes as amended was made by Mr. Boss second by Mr. Desserich. All ayes.

Reports:

- City Council – Mr. Desserich reported that the Recreation Center Renovation project was being rebid. He stated that bid numbers came back 37% higher than the architects' estimate, and that he has seen those trends happening across the board in construction projects. Ms. Leininger explained that under state law the City was unable to award the project because it exceeded the architects' estimate by 10%, thus requiring the project to be rebid. She stated that the project is planned to be rebid in the near future and that construction would start in the fall as to avoid conflicts with summer programming. Ms. Hass asked if the City should consider waiting due to the high cost of the construction market. Ms. Miller stated that even if we waited a year or two the labor market is likely to remain high. Ms. Leininger concurred. Mr. Gordon asked if there was a Springfield Pike meeting in March. Mr. Desserich answered that there is a March 23rd meeting at the Civic Center regarding the Springfield Pike construction, and that it will be a less formal meeting allowing people to discuss a variety of topics and answer questions. Mr. Gordon asked if the City would for sure be moving forward with the reconfiguration. Mr. Desserich stated that a big part of the decision to move forward is a financial one, as the grant funds are a stipulation of the design. Ms. Emch asked if traffic is expected to increase. Mr. Desserich stated that due to traffic light synchronization, traffic is not expected to increase but actually move along faster. He encouraged everyone in the group to attend the meeting to learn more.
- Administration – Ms. Leininger—none.

- School Board – Mr. Boster none—absent.
- Greenways Committee – Mr. Boss reported that the Greenways Committee is moving forward with the bike event on April 30th, and that they have been meeting with the We Thrive group and working with Woodlawn to finalize the event routes. Mr. Boss stated that Greenways will need support from Recreation Commission for the event. Ms. Leininger mentioned that the Vermont 3rd grade students included the idea of a bike ride in their recreation programming ideas to City Council as part of a school project. Mr. Desserich noted there were some good ideas.
- Senior Commission – Mr. Krueger—none.
- Chairperson – Mr. Marty none—absent.

Business:

- Commission Member Responsibility Areas:
 - Youth Sports (Dan Gordon): none. Ms. Hass asked if the Recreation Center was collecting youth sports equipment, as she noticed several people asking about lacrosse equipment on NextDoor. Mr. Gordon replied that he only had one person from his lacrosse team inquire about equipment. Ms. Leininger stated that the recreation center does not currently have a stockpile of equipment, but that the department will be allowing for equipment drop off days in May to hopefully recycle equipment in the community.
 - Adult Sports/Recreation & Senior Activities (Howard Krueger): Mr. Krueger noted that the administration recently put out a survey specific to men's softball as that was a sport that had had complaints of bringing in "ringers" at tournament times, as well as allowing people who have not paid to play. Ms. Leininger commented that men's softball pays a team fee and that they pay for the refs. She also stated that while rosters are turned in, there is not a staff person checking rosters at each game. Mr. Krueger suggested that the league allow other teams to challenge the player rosters if they believe someone playing was not approved to be on the roster.
 - Facilities, Parks & Grounds (Ralph Boss): none.
 - Programs, Recreation & Fitness (Beth Miller): Ms. Miller reported that the consensus seems to be that the new fitness application MindBody is working well and that people like it. She commented that the increased communication with participants seems to have increased class sizes and that patrons are happier with their service. Ms. Hass asked what communication has been made to let the residents know about the new application. Ms. Leininger stated it has been and will continue to be published in the Recreation Times, as well as shared on media outlets by both the Recreation Department and the City. Ms. Miller asked what people need to do to receive emails from the City. Ms. Leininger stated that patrons must go to the city website and subscribe to the emails. If they wish to receive recreation news, they would need to be sure to subscribe to the recreation news and updates. Mr. Boss asked if the city would send out reminders on how to subscribe to news. Ms. Miller also mentioned that she sent Ms. Leininger the example of the fitness survey that she uses for her class so that the staff could reuse that format for all classes. Ms. Leininger said she would pass the survey information on to Suzanna Smith to send out to patrons.

- Special Events (Stephanie Hass): none.
- Other:
 - o Possible Dog Park Locations in Wyoming—Mr. Gordon asked where Camp John Mclean Park and the Van Roberts green space was located. Mr. Boss replied Camp John Mclean is behind 5/3 Bank on Bonham, and the green space on Van Roberts is on Van Roberts with a concrete building on it and it backs up to the railroad tracks. Mr. Boss stated that the Van Roberts area is larger than the Camp Washington Park in Cincinnati. Mr. Boss also mentioned that while the parameters mentioned are the ideal area, the City would not be able to be bound completely by those parameters as we could not hit all marks at any one location. Mr. Boss also mentioned that the small dog park in Cincinnati is only one dog park, and that there are not separate spaces for small and large dogs. Ms. Miller said that she spoke with a person on Hidden Valley willing to donate land for the purposes of a dog park. Mr. Boss commented that Greenways is looking at that area as a possible cut through. Mr. Boss stated that Kattleman would be the best location, but he believes it would be unwise to commit that space to a dog park as it would rule out future use. Ms. Hass stated that there could be scheduled times for large and small dogs if there was only room for one space. Mr. Boss stated that Van Roberts would allow for over half an acre. Mr. Gordon asked if the trains blowing their horns would cause problems for the dogs. Mr. Boss stated that the expectation would be to have behaved dogs and owners. Mr. Gordon asked if dogs would be able to handle the whistle sound being so close to the train tracks. Ms. Miller stated that she lives near a park near the train tracks and she has never seen a dog that seems to be phased by the train, but that a dog new to the neighborhood could be scared. Ms. Emch stated that we would need to see how many people would use the space before considering scheduling times for large and small dogs. Mr. Boss stated that the City could sell permits to generate revenue to minimize expenses. Mr. Desserich stated that the reality is there is limited space and grounds available, so is the idea of a dog park really feasible under those limitations. Mr. Gordon asked if the City would really be behind spending \$100,000 for dog park. Mr. Desserich asked if residents could support the costs if there was assistance in private funding. Mr. Krueger stated that the development of the Kattleman property would require an agreement from Woodlawn. Mr. Krueger stated he believed the best location would be in Springfield Township. Mr. Boss asked if the Recreation Commission wanted to forward this topic to a sub-committee to engage others in the discussion, and noted he would be willing to chair that sub-committee. Mr. Boss stated that the sub-committee can research issues such as fundraising for a dog park as well as engaging surrounding communities. Mr. Boss also stated that he found a lot of research saying that dog parks are not good for dogs while other research says that they are. Ms. Miller stated that the feasible options would be Van Roberts or partnering with surrounding communities. Ms. Leininger asked if it would be worth waiting until the Master

Plan update process is complete to see if a dog park is in fact a high community priority. Ms. Miller asked who all in on the commission is really in support of a dog park. Ms. Miller stated she did not support a dog park in Wyoming. Mr. Krueger stated he did not support a dog park in Wyoming. Mr. Gordon stated he did not support a dog park in Wyoming. Mr. Boss said that he did not personally support a dog park in Wyoming, but that he is willing to explore the possibility on behalf of the residents. Ms. Miller stated she really liked the idea of the Yappy Hour, as it is more of a gathering place that provides a dog park, but does not have the same wear and tear on the property as a permanent dog park would. Mr. Desserich stated if the commission does not feel like it needs to pursue more information for a recommendation we do not need to move forward. Ms. Hass asked do we really need to move forward with a sub-committee. The group consensus is that the Recreation Commission does not believe the City should move forward with a dog park. Mr. Desserich stated that he wanted the minutes to note that the Recreation Commission would welcome future ideas to further explore interest in a dog park. Ms. Miller motioned that the Recreation Commission recommend that the administration explore partnerships with surrounding communities to develop a dog park. Mr. Boss seconded the motion.

Miscellaneous: The next meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2016 at the Wyoming Recreation Center.

- Mr. Krueger presented an article to the group on how Indian Hill is now live streaming sports, and noted that he thought it would be a neat idea for Wyoming to consider streaming their sport events live.
- Mr. Krueger noted he had comments in relation to the Board and Commissions Handbook. He stated that nowhere does it say that there is expectation of showing up regularly for meetings, and he requests that the expectation that people attend regularly and that the staff rep or chair is notified if the member will not be in attendance. Mr. Gordon commented that while this would be a logical expectation, it may be beneficial to include it just in case. Mr. Desserich stated that the handbook does specify that if you miss two unexcused meetings you could be subject to be removed, and that that it is largely handled by Lynn Tetley. Mr. Krueger noted that on page 20, the Civic Center programming was not included under the listing of key responsibilities.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Leininger