

**City of Wyoming
Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 3, 2020**

Members present: Holly Emch, Howard Krueger, Laura Lazaraton, Daniele Eller, Alex Albers, Johnathan Daugherty, and Nancy Averett.

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

Others Present: Alicia Vargas, Monica Vargas, and Tatiana Vargas.

Citizen Participation: None.

Call to Order:

Ms. Emch called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve the February minutes was made by Ms. Eller second by Ms. Lazaraton. All ayes.

Reports:

- City Council – none.
- Administration – Ms. Leininger reported that the Recreation Center had reopened for business as of June 1, 2020. She explained that there were several changes in processes/procedures to ensure the safety of patrons visiting the recreation center. She stated the following changes had been made: fitness center only open to members; appointments had to be made using the Omnify scheduling system as only 20 members could work out at one time; extra cleaning procedures including use of own sanitized spray bottle per member; vulnerable population hour from 10-11 am daily, locker rooms closed, and all equipment spaced 6 feet apart. Ms. Leininger stated that while the recreation center wasn't being visited nearly as frequent as it was before COVID-19, the feedback from members has been positive and they have felt safe. Ms. Lazaraton asked if members were going to be allowed to work out for more than one hour. Ms. Leininger stated she would revisit that policy and get back with her. Ms. Lazaraton also asked if facility hours would go back to closing at 9 pm throughout the week. Ms. Leininger stated she believed they would. Ms. Leininger also reported that contact sports had been released and that the recreation center was currently offering soccer, and that they planned to offer basketball as well, but that indoor sports would definitely be impacted due to COVID. Ms. Leininger also stated there would be no Recreation Times sent out due to the uncertainty of so many things still. She announced Fall Festival was cancelled because of the required distancing between vendors and the large gathering of

people—usually 800 to 1000 people attend every year. Ms. Leininger also reported that the Kattelmann Athletics Field project started at the end of March and that it was underway. She stated that the area had been leveled, the retaining wall was being installed, and the wall ball had been completed. She stated that due to a number of factors the project had been delayed and the expected completion is mid-December. Ms. Averett asked if there would be shade included in the project. Ms. Leininger stated that there will be trees planted that will provide shade, but she expects them to be younger trees so it may take a few years for the trees to provide the intended shade.

- School Board – Ms. Leininger reported on behalf of the school board that fall sports were up and running and that the Champion Center was 75% complete and would open by October 1. She stated that the schools have worked hard to mitigate the exposure to the virus as the schools recognized how important athletics are to the students, and stated that the coaches and student athletes have done a great job following guidelines. Ms. Leininger also reported that Wyoming City Schools appointed a full-time Assistant Athletic Director, Jeff King, whom reports to Jan Wilking who is now the Business Manager.
- Chairperson—Ms. Emch asked members if they want to meet monthly still since there is less activity in recreation due to COVID. Ms. Leininger stated that she thought it would be a good idea to have Monica Tuck from the Wyoming Recreation Foundation present an overview of the organization to the group so that commission members would know what all the Wyoming Recreation Foundation was doing. Ms. Emch stated the group could meet in October with Ms. Tuck at the Grove Park shelter, and not meet in November or December unless it was needed.

Business:

- Commission Member Responsibility Areas:
 - Youth Sports— none.
 - Adult Sports/Recreation & Senior Activities (Howard Krueger): none.
 - Fitness, Programs, and Aquatics: none.
 - Facilities, Parks & Grounds (Daniele): none.
 - Greenways: Mr. Daugherty reported that an application for the extension of the hike/bike trail had been filed, but the City had yet to receive word on the award status. He stated that project awards usually are announced in the fall so that he would expect to hear something soon. Ms. Leininger stated most of the state agencies were still working from home due to COVID, so she would not be surprised if the announcements were delayed.
 - Special Events—none.

Other:

- 2021 Fee Review—Group members received the 2021 proposed fee schedule prior to the meeting to review. Mr. Daugherty asked to clarify what it meant by block hour charges on the turf field. Ms. Leininger stated that this allowed groups to buy bulk field hours on the turf instead of hour for hour. She said this was a common

practice and was a good source of revenue. Ms. Emch asked about how the pricing model for the Civic Center lawn rental. Ms. Leininger explained that fee was for the lawn only and that it had to be high enough to rent by itself because it knocked the used of the main hall out for other rentals. She further explained that if someone rented the main hall they received access to the grass area for free with their rental.

- Women's Garden/Park—Ms. Vargas reported to the group that she had recently visited a beautiful park in Yellow Springs, OH that honored and recognized women and their many contributions to the community called the Yellow Springs Women's Park. She stated that the park was filled with beautiful flowers, sculptures, and a path of blue tiles that each had the names of different women and a description to honor their memories and contributions. Ms. Vargas explained that the park not only provided beauty but also a wonderful space to acknowledge and appreciate the many contributions of women. She explained she would like to see a similar park in Wyoming, some small along North Park with benches/trees, sculptures, wooden platform for mediation, and even a mural where women of all races and ethnicities could be celebrated. Ms. Vargas said she believes the park will provide inspiration to everyone. She also explained that she had recently added a fairy garden to her home and she had so many people tell her how much they had enjoyed her garden and that it had put a smile on their face. She stated she believes bringing a Women's Garden to Wyoming will be a place people can enjoy and the many contributions of women can be appreciated. Ms. Vargas provided material and examples to the group of the different murals, sculptures, and materials that could be used in a Wyoming Women's Park. The group received her recommendation. Ms. Leininger explained that they would relay their recommendation to City Council and would let her know next steps. Ms. Averett stated that the idea should probably go to Urban Forestry and Beautification as well. Ms. Leininger agreed and would coordinate with Ms. Averett.
- Miscellaneous: Ms. Emch asked if there would be a Holiday Celebration this year. Ms. Leininger stated she hoped there would be some form of celebration but did expect it to look different, though the situation is a fluid one. She explained that everything would need be outdoors, horse drawn carriages would be difficult due to social distancing, and that it would need to be a socially distanced Santa experience. Ms. Emch said she believed it could be done safely if spaced out properly. Ms. Leininger agreed. Ms. Leininger stated that the only issue would be if our status was red or higher on the public health emergency system as the City would have to consider whether or not it would be appropriate to host an event under those circumstances. Ms. Leininger stated the City hopes to offer the holiday experience for patrons, but that safety would always be the first priority.

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Leininger