

**PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

July 13, 2022

Members present Charlene Rios, Greg Nevarez, Chuck Perry, Troy White, Ryan Holterhoff, and Jamie Nixon-Garcia

Members absent Allison Palumbo

Staff present Susan Schwiesow, Bill Aukett, Carrie Hoiness, and Stefanie Dunn

2022 MEETING ATTENDANCE RECORD

Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Charlene Rios	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Chuck Perry	X	E	X	X	X	X	X					
Ryan Holterhoff	X	X	X	E	X	E	X					
Greg Nevarez	X	X	E	E	E	X	X					
Troy White	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Jamie Nixon-Garcia				X	X	X	X					
Allison Palumbo							E					

C = Meeting Cancelled X = Present A = Absent E = Excused R = Resigned

Call to Order

The regular meeting was called to order by Charlene Rios at 6 pm.

Introduction of Guests/Visitors/Board Members

Ms. Rios advised the board that there is a new Board Member, Allison Palumbo, who plans to be at August board meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. White moved to approve the minutes dated June 8, 2022. Motion seconded by Ms. Nixon-Garcia. Motion unanimously approved and passed.

Plat Reviews/Dedication, or Fee in Lieu of Land: Maple Grove Park

Ms. Schwiesow reviewed plat provided to the board, which outline plans for new park in Maple Grove. She advised this park will be located off Grape Drive, down the street from where the food bank is being built off Highway 17.

Board asked about swings in parks and whether Parks Department is removing swings at parks. Ms. Schwiesow clarified that swings are not being removed from parks that have them, but rather swing sets are classified in sections and both swings in one section must be the same type, toddler or regular belt.

Museum Update

Ms. Schwiesow provided an update on museum attendance, with 800+ people in the month of June. She went on to explain that is a good mixture of local community members and out of state visitors. Ms. Schwiesow advised that there have been a large variety of museum classes, and a new show is up in the museum: *23 Sculptures and Me* and *Evolution in Wood*, featuring Alan Newberg.

Ms. Schwiesow advised that this Friday, July 15, 2022, from 4 – 6pm will be the dedication of the

Community Gallery in honor of Ramon Cerna, who recently decided to retire. She went onto explain that he served the museum for many years helping to set up galleries. Ms. Schwiesow shared that StoryCorps kick-off was well-attended. There continue to be StoryCorps interviews set up and taking place, so community members are encouraged to sign up and tell their story.

Creative District – Ms. Schwiesow shared that graphic designer is assisting with logo creation for the Creative District and staff will be attending upcoming rural cohort meeting to connect with other creative districts throughout the state. She also shared that social media pages have been created for the Creative District.

Recreation Update

Ms. Hoiness advised that we are about halfway through the summer season and staff are preparing for fall season. She advised there is talk of pushing the fall/winter Recreation Guide publication back a few weeks to coincide with the Larson Recreation Center build completion.

Ms. Hoiness advised that the water park has been somewhat slow so far this season, which may be due to cooler weather early summer. She did advise that water park rentals are steady going into the rest of the summer months and swim lessons have been popular.

Ms. Hoiness advised that the Mobile Rec program has been running well. She advised that least attended site has been Longview Park location. Ms. Hoiness also shared that guest speakers have been popular days for attendance, which is fun to see. Ms. Hoiness shared that Explorer Day Camp continues to run well. There is a field trip scheduled to the roller rink in Ephrata this week, which should be a good time. Ms. Hoiness shared that recent State tournament hosted at Larson Playfield this last weekend went well.

Ms. Hoiness shared recent Recreation Coordinator hire, Gunnar Blankenship, started this week. She advised he will be learning programming as we head into the Larson Recreation Center building this fall. Ms. Hoiness shared that scholarship options are being developed for memberships at the Larson Recreation Center, which was an ask by City Council.

Parks Update

Mr. Aukett provided a Parks Maintenance update. He advised that 3 new seasonal staff have been hired, which puts them close to full crew for the rest of the season. Mr. Aukett also said that full-time Park Maintenance Technician position had some good interest, so looking forward to filling that position.

Mr. Aukett advised that the water park is running smoothly. The lazy river leak has been isolated and no further issues thus far. Mr. Aukett advised that the maintenance crew continues to keep up with weed control this season. Mr. Aukett advised that vandalism continues to be a challenge. Also, maintenance has been doing some regular maintenance on picnic shelters.

Board discussion about weeds on streetscapes, particularly the Alder fill area. Mr. Aukett advised that Maintenance will survey that area and work to clean up weeds and overgrowth.

Director's Report

