



Recreation & Arena Advisory Commission Meeting
January 11, 2021
Microsoft TEAMS

Attendance:

Dale Bickford, Dick Clough, Dave Camire, Joan Strogon, Kevin Barry, Paul Roberts, Sheila Colson, Trey Scott, Chris Bowlen, Art Jacobs, Lauren Krans

All members stated they are alone in room.

Accept December Minutes

Joan Strogon motion to accept December minute, Dale Bickford second.

Review Revenue and Expense Reports

Dale Bickford question on Arena revenue. Is COVID-19 affecting our revenue stream?

Director Bowlen advised that on a year-to-year comparison there is a significant impact on revenues due to COVID-19. The finance committee was brought up to speed on this in December.

Director Bowlen briefed the City Manager today on this topic.

Dave Camire motion to accept, Sheila Colson second.

Update on Department Winter Operations

Supervisor Art Jacobs program update, including information on Youth Basketball, Family Open Gym, Senior Open Gym and Rec En Route. There will be a small fee for Family Open Gym.

Assistant Director Krans gave an update on online program information, no longer utilizing a paper newsletter as information changes quickly.

David Camire asked about spreading the word on Rec programs at the school board meeting.

Paul Roberts asked about Spaulding Basketball returning to use the Spaulding courts instead of the Community Center. Rec Supervisor Art Jacobs confirmed this was a result of COVID and maintaining separate use of facilities for school v rec programs.

Arena Supervisor Steve Trepanier gave an overview of the Learn to Skate program adapted for COVID-19. Director Chris Bowlen gave an update on 2 returning ice user groups who have decided to book some ice for the remainder of the season.

Exploration of Capital Improvement Projects: Skate Park and Pavilion at the Common



Director Bowlen presented the group on information pertaining to in ground skate parks. If this is a project we would like to explore, we should start conversations now so that we can plan accordingly.

This summer Concert on the Common and the Farmers Market took place on the end of the park where the baseball field is. It was very successful. Suggested we explore a structure/pavilion for that end of the park so that the Common is more agreeable for concerts and events.

Staff has communicated with Economic/Community Development about exploring Community Development Grants for these potential projects.

Tentative Spring and Summer Program Plan

Recreation Supervisor gave an update on plans for Spring and Summer Programming. Some traditional programs like track will be easier than others to run with new COVID guidelines.

Department is looking to offer the most traditional model as possible for Summer Camp and Swim Lessons.

Family Open Swim was a very successful program last summer. Looking to offer a hybrid of Family Swim, Public Swim and Swim Lessons at the public pools this summer.

Other

Krans and Bowlen briefed the commission on the most up to date operational changes due to Covid. The most recent being that the arena closed on Monday in order to get further information on potential staff impacts. The commission agreed that working to keep the facility open is important, especially for the purposes of keeping the youth in the community active and engaged. The commission also indicated that safety is the first priority.

Dick Clough asked about the turf floor. Staff explained that the original product that arrived was the incorrect product. This error gave the department the opportunity to realize that the original turf product will not work well in the facility. Department will be going back for additional funding to purchase an alternative turf product.

Next meeting will take place on February 8th, 6pm on Teams.

Motion to Adjourn: 649 pm Dale motion to adjourn, Sheila second.