



Recreation & Arena Advisory Commission Meeting
Monday, May 10, 2021 6pm
Microsoft TEAMS

1) Roll Call

Dale Bickford, Dick Clough, Paul Roberts, Joan Strogon, Kevin Barry, Dave Camire, Trey Scott, Chris Bowlen, Steve Trepanier, Lauren Krans

Director Bowlen briefed the group that the June Commission meeting will be on Teams, per past practice the Commission will not meet in July and August. The Commission will resume meeting in September with an in person meeting the second Monday of the month in the Rochester Arena Conference Room.

2) Accept April Minutes

Dale Bickford motion to accept. Dick Clough second.

3) Review Revenue & Expense Reports

Trey Scott motion to accept. Paul Roberts second.

4) Outdoor Facilities & Park Signage Update

The Recreation Department received a handful of phone calls about large groups of teen overwhelming the playground structure at the Hanson Pines Playground after school lets out. Community members voiced concerns about juling and vulgar language. The Rec Department ordered new signage

Director Bowlen explained that the Tennis Courts were damaged this winter by the fluctuation temperatures resulting in large cracks across the court surfaces.

The Department of Public Works did not have the funding in their budget FY21 to make these repairs. DPW is putting forward the Tennis Courts as a CIP item to hopefully be repaired after July one and before the end of the summer.

Directly Bowlen summarized the Dominicus Hanson Pines Forest Improvement Harvest. They crew was on site Monday morning of April Vacation and had all of the logs out by Friday of that week. There are some areas that are more visibly clear, which is the intent of the project to allow more sunlight for new pines to go.

Dave Camire suggested the department host information sessions for the public to attend with the forester. The Recreation Department is looking to organize this offering over the summer.



Dave Camire asked if there were any revenues from the sale of the lumber. Directory Bowlen explained that there was a small net deficit for this project and would have to ask DPW for the final number.

5) Rec Dept. Space & Role at Community Center

Assistant Director Krans proposed that management of the Community Room be given to the city's Public Information and Community Engagement Officer.

The Commission supported this proposal.

Assistant Director Krans explained to the Commission that there is lot of positive momentum at the Community Center led by the Public Information and Community Engagement Officer. The department will refocus their energy on department space and programs, lightening their focus on overall building happenings. They will not be re-filling the role of Community Center Attendant. Some of the tasks performed by the role are still needed for department operations.

6) Summer Program Planning & Updated COVID Guidelines

Director Bowlen briefed the Commission on the Universal Best Practices published by the state. The department will use these and info from the CDC to guide planning.

Assistant Director Krans shared the message to staff about the Best Practices and shared that the department's overall philosophy is a 'common sense' approach to health and safety.

7) Part Time Seasonal Staff Pay

Director Bowlen explained that all industries are having a challenging time hiring part time staff. Many retail companies have significantly increased their starting wages for part time workers, which makes retaining and attracting new staff challenging.

Director Bowlen asked the Commission to support him advocating for appropriate, competitive wage adjustments for part time seasonal staff.

The Commission supported the department this initiative.

8) Other

Assistant Director Krans briefed the Commission that the department would no longer be receiving the Road for Hope donation from St. Anselm College. She has connected the Share Fund with this initiative.

Dale Bickford motion to end meeting, Dick Clough second.