**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

**MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021 @ 7:00PM**

**JAMES J. EAGAN CENTER**

**Board Members Present:** Linda Rose, Walt Kaiser, Monica Wideman, Kim Burns, Robert Shoemaker and Rev. G. Robinson.

**Not in attendance:** Kristina Curnutt, Jennifer Fite and Jason Steinbruegge

**City Staff Attendance:** Chery Thompson-Stimage

**Approval of Minutes:** The Meeting was called to order 7:03 pm. It was stated that some were unsure if the November 2020 minutes had been sent out. Cheryl stated she would send them to everyone tomorrow.

**Citizen Participation**: Claire Coble and Allison Wideman two girl scouts were in attendance. They stated that they felt there was too much liter in the parks and wanted to raise money to purchase additional trash can. They asked what type of trash can would be most reasonable and best to purchase. Cheryl stated that the most reasonable type of trash can is what is currently in the parks which are tin barrels. They are easy for us to maintain and very reasonable compared to other various types of cans available. Additional they ask what are the busiest parks. Cheryl stated that St. Ferdinand Park, Koch Park, Bangert Park and Dunegant Park are the busiest parks.

Cheryl asked the girls how they were going to raise the funds to purchase the trash cans. They stated that they were going to write a book about trash, recycling and other various environmental issues and will sell it to raise the funds. Cheryl stated she would get the prices for these trash cans to them. Cheryl thank them for their concern and for attending the meeting.

**Report from the Director of Parks:**

* Project at Koch Park is moving along, restroom walls and roof are up and have started on the construction of the playground
* A number of full time and part time staff have been out with COVID.
* As of next Monday, January 18th, Sarah Skaggs who is the former clerk at JFK will be promoted to the Aquatic’s Recreation Specialist. She will move to the Eagan Center office and Bridget Goodwin who is a clerk at JJE will move to JFK.
* We currently have two interns from Lindenwood who will be with us through April.
* The playground equipment for the inclusive playground was ordered today.
* There will be a groundbreaking ceremony coming up and park board along with another dignitaries’ date will to be determined
* Park Maintenance has been working on the hill at Sunset overlooking the river to clear that so that the river can be seen a bit better.
* They are also working on a common ground back by St. Patrick’s to clear debris from the fence line.
* Park maintenance is working hard on their usual winter projects such as painting trash cans, picnic tables and various equipment.
* Recreation staff has been working on adding new programs. Some that have become popular are a private Basketball lessons, family gym time rentals and various fitness and swimming programs have begun again.
* The rule of 25% capacity has been adopted again until the county would change these numbers.
* We are working with at least one healthcare network to provide COVID testing here at the Eagan Center a couple of days a week. There may be another one that will work out of JFK but that is still to pending arrangements.
* I am working with Joe Mueller the muralist who is working on a design for the wall that runs along St. Francois that is used as a chalk wall during the fall festival.
* For the first time in years the golf course loss less than $100,000 which is great compared to many previous years.

**Discussion of fundraising for the proposed playground at Manion Park:** Kim Burns stated she would like to hold a Dodgeball Tournament once the weather breaks. Cheryl stated that Evan Stoll, Recreation Sports Specialist will be more than willing to assist in this tournament.

Linda Rose suggested using the “Flocking” program. Various elements of this were discussed to include what the program involved and the cost associated with doing this.

Monica Wideman suggested offering the trash cans to have businesses or individuals pay to paint something on the cans for the season. If this program were to be adopted various guidelines were have to be established to ensure that the things painted on the trash cans would be permissible.

Cheryl stated she would take these ideas to staff to see if they felt we could move forward on these suggestions. Cheryl also stated she would be getting something in the Spring Spotlight about this project.

Linda Rose suggested placing donation jars in local businesses. Cheryl stated that this would need to be administered by the park board.

**Election of Officers:** Walt made the announcement that Linda does not want to run for President and was therefore asking who else might want to serve as president. Hearing none Walt asked Rev. Robertson since he was the vice president was he willing to serve as President. Rev. Robertson agreed to serve as president. Hearing no other nominations Walt congratulated Rev. Robertson as being elected the new president.

Walt then asked if anyone was willing to serve at Vice President. To which no one responded so he asked Monica Wideman if she was willing to serve. Monica stated that if no one else wanted to volunteer that she would serve. Hearing no other nominations Walt congratulated Monica on being elected vice president.

At this time Linda Rose turned the meeting over to Rev. Robinson to chair the remainder of the meeting.

**Announcements:** Walt told Cheryl that she cannot make changes to the Agenda. However, Cheryl stated that the only thing that she changed on this month’s agenda was to delete a statement about the November change of day of the meeting. The integrity of the agenda was not changed in any way.

Walt additionally announced that those that want to get the COVID shot to make sure and go to the county website to sign up for this immunization. Walt stated that in talking with Rev. Robertson lately they discovered the had both been married to their wives on the same day. Further that between the two of them they had over 100 years of marriage between then.

**Communications:** None

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Adjournment**: Linda made a motion to adjourn at 7:35 and was seconded by Walt.