

**CITY OF ISANTI
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 24, 2013**

1. Meeting Opening.

A. Call to Order.

Zdon called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Roll Call.

Members Present: Jamie Bergwick (arrived at 5:03 p.m.), Clell Bone, Jennifer Garvey, Mayor Wimmer (arrived at 5:04 p.m.) and Aaron Zdon.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Lisa Wilson, Planning and Parks Director and Josi Wood, Community Events and Parks Coordinator.

D. Agenda Modifications.

Wilson stated that she had none.

Zdon requested a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion by Bone, second by Garvey to approve the September 24th, 2013 Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Agenda. Motion was unanimously approved.

2. Approval of Minutes from August 27, 2013 Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Meeting.

Zdon questioned if there were changes to the minutes.

Motion by Garvey, second by Bone to approve the August 27th, 2013 Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

3. Public Hearings.

A. None.

4. Other Business.

A. Introduction to Community Events and Parks Coordinator – Josi Wood.

Wilson introduced the new Community Events and Parks Coordinator, Josi Wood. Wilson explained what Mrs. Wood would be working on within the parks department. Wilson questioned if Mrs. Wood would like to tell the Park Board a little bit about her background.

Wood provided some background information from her prior work experience. Wood stated that she was excited to be working with the City.

Wilson questioned if the group had any questions for her.

Garvey stated that she welcomed her aboard.

Zdon welcomed Mrs. Wood to the City.

B. Isanti Intermediate School Tennis Court Reservations

Wilson outlined the information within the staff memo. Wilson questioned if the Park Board was interested in pursuing a further agreement; and if so, should the fee remain consistent for the upcoming seasons.

Garvey questioned if the City has ever broken it down to figure out what the hourly rate is for their usage.

Wilson stated no.

Garvey stated that it would be interesting to see what that \$350 is per hour or per day. Garvey stated that she would like to see what the actual fee base is versus a general overall amount of money.

Wilson stated that she could run those numbers and bring it back to the next meeting.

Zdon stated that he thinks it is a fair price. Zdon stated that he does not know if public works has seen any additional maintenance costs or issues with this use. Zdon stated that the group has always used the facility. Zdon questioned if Mayor Wimmer was aware of any big expenses coming up at the facility.

Wimmer stated that he did not believe so. Wimmer stated that in 2004 or so when the courts were completely re-done. Wimmer stated that generally the courts are in good condition.

Garvey questioned how the nets were holding up.

Wilson stated that public works had not notified her of any need to replace nets. Wilson stated that the net at Whisper Ridge may need some attention.

Zdon stated that the group would like to see what that is per hour. Zdon questioned how many days a week they use the facility.

Wilson stated that they use it four days a week.

Zdon stated that the practice is probably around an hour or hour and a half time.

Wilson stated yes.

Garvey questioned if City staff has received any other requests from other groups to reserve the facility.

Wilson stated that Community Education had come forward last year to request exclusive use for a two week period, but they paid a different fee that was established by Council.

Garvey questioned if we were able to grant their usage time.

Wilson stated yes, the request was approved.

Wimmer stated that the only concerns we have are from residents that would like to use the facility when it is being booked in this fashion. Wimmer stated that these concerns have decreased because they are aware that the school is paying for it.

Garvey stated that it is easier to accept this, if there is a standing schedule.

Zdon stated that if staff could provide that breakdown at the next meeting, the group should have enough time to review and provide information to the school.

5. Discussion Items.

A. Updates.

1. Community Center.

Wilson stated that she would turn this item over to the Mayor.

Wimmer explained the meetings with all of the groups. Wimmer stated that Mrs. Wood is doing a really great job. Wimmer stated that the City has found that there were a number of groups that were not being charged a fee. Wimmer stated that we have gone through and identified areas that need to be cleaned. Wimmer stated that City staff is working on a capital replacement plan for everything in the community center. Wimmer stated that most items there belong to the Lions and were not donated to the City. Wimmer stated that we need to work through that process. Wimmer stated that there is a lot of storage for differing groups there. Wimmer stated that there are differing keys for differing areas. Wimmer stated that it has been really good having Mrs. Wood on board, as she is taking the item and running with it. Wimmer stated that we are going to start doing some cross promotions with city events. Wimmer stated that we changed the reservation phone at the center. Wimmer stated that the reservation number comes to City Hall and a new number has been set-up for just emergency situations, etc. Wimmer stated that we heard from some groups that are willing to pay a fee. Wimmer outlined the groups that are on-board versus those that have declined the fee. Wimmer stated that we are trying to hit a number on the reservations. Wimmer stated that we need to make money to cover our costs. Wimmer stated that he is fairly confident that the community center will be around. Wimmer stated that Mrs. Wood will also be looking at doing some programming for the community center. Wimmer stated that we will be growing the parks department as well as will be having differing community events during the summer. Wimmer stated that we need to get more people involved. Wimmer stated that younger people need to be involved to make the facility more relevant to them as well. Wimmer stated that the Council overall wants the community center to stay running and operational.

Garvey stated that she likes the updates to the website, as it is easy to read and understand. Garvey stated that this is not usually the case on other websites. Garvey stated that it was very easy to access.

Bone stated that it was also good to hear that the sprinkler system is fine and we saved \$30,000. Bone stated that it was inspected and it is fine.

Wimmer stated that it is still operational, but it is beyond its life expectancy.

Bone stated that he was on the fire department for 25 years and the first thing he learned is if it does not have a problem leave it alone. Bone stated that it is a dry system.

Wimmer stated correct, but we have had issues with the compressor and other items. Wimmer stated that it is beyond its life. Wimmer stated that he hopes it lasts another ten years, but it is something that we need to have a plan so when replacement is necessary, we can do so. Wimmer stated that like any mechanical system, something will eventually go.

Zdon stated that we need to budget for the future.

Bone stated that the pipes do not do a thing. Bone stated that the only thing that will go is the pump.

Wimmer stated that if the pump goes, the system fills with water and everything will get sprayed.

Bone stated that is what it is supposed to do.

Wimmer stated only if there is an actual fire.

Zdon stated that things are okay for now. Zdon stated that we just need to have a plan.

Bone questioned who made the brilliant decision to get rid of Joe Mau.

Wimmer questioned the statement.

Bone stated that he has been replaced to clean the facility.

Wimmer stated that the City Council made the decision to do so, as it would save the City money.

Bone stated that the City just saved \$30,000. Bone stated that this man and his family have given more to this community than anyone.

Garvey questioned if this conversation needed to take place at this meeting.

Wimmer stated that Mr. Bone needed to act with decorum and follow the rules of the Board.

Bone questioned the Board's rules.

Wimmer stated that he would answer the question. Wimmer stated that the City Council had voted to replace the Lions as the operators of the community center. Wimmer stated that was a Council decision.

Bone stated that he thought that was stupid. Bone questioned who tripled the building. Bone stated that before the Mayor was born, the City Council was meeting at that facility.

Wimmer stated that was fine. Wimmer stated that we are talking about today.

Bone stated that we had a group that donated their time and tripled the size of the building. Bone stated that he does not see any other government entity doing that.

Wimmer stated that the operation of the facility was losing money. Wimmer stated that the item went to referendum and that failed. Wimmer stated that the Council decided in an effort to save money and to try to make the community center more relevant to the community, to take over the operations. Wimmer stated that the City had tried to sell the facility to the Lions, about a year and a half ago, for a dollar. Wimmer stated that the Lions did not want to do that. Wimmer stated that was the first option, to turn it over to the Lions. Wimmer stated that with this option, the Lions could operate the facility the best that they could. Wimmer stated that the Lions declined the offer as they could not afford to do so because it was losing money and it had so many capital replacements necessary, that they could not do so. Wimmer stated that at one point and time, the Lions took care of everything. Wimmer stated that the Council didn't worry about anything. Wimmer stated that the Lions had money from charitable gambling and they just took care of things. Wimmer stated that ended about a decade ago. Wimmer stated that five years ago, they stopped supporting senior dining. Wimmer stated that was when he stepped in and donated \$1500 to \$2000 from the Arctic Plunge. Wimmer stated that the Lions did a lot of great things and still continue to do a lot of great things; they are just unable to support this City building. Wimmer stated that in an effort to try to save the building, the Council opted to take the operations over. Wimmer stated that if we kept going the way that we were going, the facility would probably be closing. Wimmer stated that from what the referendum said, people question why the City is doing anything, it was voted on and this should be done. Wimmer stated that this is nothing to discredit what the Lions have done or what any other group has done. Wimmer

stated that this is not to say what happened in the past is wrong, this is to pick up the ball and financially move things forward. Wimmer stated that the most money made for the community center was the Lions pancake breakfast. Wimmer stated that raised about \$800. Wimmer stated that this is nothing against any one that has done anything in the past, but this is make sure that the issues are addressed now and in the future. Wimmer stated that he would have like to have seen the Lions take it for a dollar, but they understood the issues that are there too. Wimmer stated that the City Council is trying their best to save this facility. Wimmer stated that Mr. Bone is not the first person to struggle with this decision.

Bone stated that he will not be the last.

Wimmer stated that from the standpoint of keeping the center going forward, this had to be done. Wimmer stated that we cannot fund a facility when there is nothing being charged. Wimmer stated that the facility will probably never break even, but we need to try to get to a much closer point than we are today, especially with all the capital replacement items. Wimmer stated that we need to plan for when something bad happens. Wimmer stated that we do this with all of the City buildings. Wimmer stated that it is the City's building and we are taking ownership to correct the issues and plan for the future.

Bone stated that if the referendum had been correctly worded, it would be a \$7 increase per household. Bone stated that he is getting static from everyone over this, including the churches. Bone stated that Mayor Wimmer had gone to Faith Lutheran Church and stated that the City needed \$300,000 for the community center and that two police officers may need to be laid off.

Wimmer stated that he had never said such a thing.

Bone stated that the minister had reported this to him.

Wimmer stated that the only meeting he had was with all the religious heads. Wimmer stated that there are notes from that meeting. Wimmer stated that did not come from his lips. Wimmer stated that the \$250,000 was put together by the task force. Wimmer stated that he did not come up with the wording. Wimmer stated that the wording was put together by the task force. Wimmer stated that all of this work was completed by the task force. Wimmer stated that the Council did not word the question.

Zdon stated that this was a good discussion. Zdon questioned if there was any other business.

Wilson stated there was none.

6. Adjournment

Motion by Garvey, second by Bergwick to adjourn the September 24th, 2013 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board. Motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 22nd day of October 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Wilson, AICP
Planning and Parks Director