

Park Board Minutes  
July 17, 2018

Members Present: Candy Sullinger, Bob Simmons, Jamie Whiteis, Wes Stoner, Garrett Vanderpool, Danielle Dingman and Julie Wolfe  
Members Absent: Gabe Miller and Andrew Brown  
Staff Present: Cindy Shook, Jason Reinsch, Marsha Fulton

The meeting was called to order.

Jamie Whiteis made a motion to approve the Park Board minutes dated June 19<sup>th</sup>. Wes Stoner seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Business:

1. The first item on the agenda was the presentation of the financial report. Cindy opened this item by expressing how impressed she was with the campground, stating it was the highlight of the report. The report showed that the campground was \$126,000 in revenue and down \$3,000 in expenditures over the same time period as last year. Cindy stated that the campground managers set a goal to reach \$100,000 in revenue for a month, which they did in June. Garrett stated that a fee increase was likely a contributing factor to revenue being up. Cindy reported that both revenues and expenses were up for ball programs and tournament revenue was down due to the fact that the annual MAYB tournament did not happen this year. Cindy added that the MAYB event has been in decline and it is time to make a change for the next season. Garrett then inquired if there had been rentals at Liberty Plaza. Cindy explained that there had not but that the department continues to offer new programming at the site to determine what might resonate with the community. Candy agreed, stating that Liberty Plaza was getting more exposure. Bob added that it was important to charge the expenditures for Liberty Plaza to its own cost center so that we can develop a realistic picture of the facility costs.

2. The next item on the agenda was the presentation of capital improvement projects. Cindy reviewed all the items on the capital list for 2019 in detail, including refinishing the gym floor, resealing campground roads and the walking path at the RecPlex, trail improvements, security cameras at the campground and at parks, fencing improvements, pool slide painting, and replacement of equipment. Cindy indicated that most of the items were once again focused on maintaining our current facilities. She went on to explain that all capital improvements are now scored by the departments as well as the Capital Improvements Committee as part of priority based budgeting, to better determine the priorities for the city. Cindy stated that a five year capital plan is still developed as well. She stated that she feels like all the projects are very important, but that she would rank sanding and refinishing the gym floor as our top priority due to the fact that it is important not to let the floor deteriorate as the direct visitor spending from tournaments that use the gymnasium exceeds \$5 million annually. Cindy stated that other top priorities are to reseal the RecPlex walking paths and the campground roads. Cindy indicated that staff was once again discussing site improvements for the campground in the form of removing some sites to make way for the demand for larger sites. Garrett inquired as to where the Roark Creek Trail improvements would be. Jason indicated that the hard surface path would

be extended about 1900 linear feet at the end of the Ledbetter easement. Cindy concluded this item by stating she is currently working toward finalizing the contract for sandblasting and repainting of the pool, which is scheduled for this fall.

3. The next item on the agenda was the update on the Don Gardner Golf Course. Candy opened this item by asking Cindy if she was looking for a recommendation from the board in follow-up to last month's discussion. Cindy responded that she was indeed looking for a recommendation as the course was in really bad shape and was continuing to decline, causing the facility to already be behind \$11,000 for the year. Jason reported that in looking back, the course has lost \$109,740.00 over the last 5 years. Jason stated that at this point, we would recommend that the board make a recommendation to close the course and look forward to repurposing the course as a multi-purpose park. Candy then opened it up for discussion. Garrett inquired as to the average age of the people currently using the facility. Cindy stated that it is mostly seniors but some activities attracted younger people and families. Garrett then added that if the park is redeveloped, we should add elements that complement the users of the Community Center. Jamie added that he felt it should be closed as soon as possible to stop the bleeding and loss of revenue. Bob added that while he understood it was a hard decision, it wasn't really difficult for him because the golf course concept had not really been successful. Cindy reminded the board that the course was conceived due to the opportunity for a grant in the amount of \$100,000 to construct the course. Unfortunately, it seems that the ongoing and long term cost of operations hadn't been thoroughly considered. Cindy continued by saying a golf course should be profitable and only having 5 holes makes it very difficult, as the opportunity for revenue is limited. Jamie stated that the board should look at this as a new opportunity. Jamie made a recommendation to close the Don Gardner Golf Course. Candy seconded the motion. All were in favor.

4. The next item on the agenda was an update on baseball and softball tournaments. Cindy shared that they are currently hosting the FASA Girls U14-U18 with 60 teams. Additionally, last week's USSSA Girl's World Series saw teams attend from 11 states.

5. The next item on the agenda was the review of the recreation update. Cindy shared that the recent swim meet saw 330 swimmers in attendance. Additionally, they were gearing up for a "Dive-In" Movie as well as another concert at Liberty Plaza on Friday. Wes added that he had seen the information for the recent Girl's Night Out night at the Community Center and it looked like it was a successful program.

#### Member's Report

1. Julie commented that she is once again teaching the Aqua Fit classes. Cindy remarked that they are well attended and that the ladies loved Julie and the class.