

MINUTES
CITY OF DELANO
Park and Recreation Commission
Wednesday, August 23, 2017
5:00 PM

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call and Approval of Agenda

Present:

Tom Schaffer

Dan Menk

Mike Lindquist

Marnie Lucas

Jonathon Werth

Sarah Berres

Not present:

Sean Peterson

Jon Sutherland

Also present:

Phil Kern, City Administrator

Makenzie Krause, Recorder

Justin Markon, Administrative Intern

Lindquist made a motion to approve the agenda and was seconded by Lucas; motion carried.

3. Minutes

4. Order of Business

A. Canoe Sign Update

Krause informed the group that the canoe sign was approved by City Council and is well underway. Emily at the River Street Paint House is working on painting the canoe with a design that looks like a quilt to serve as a backdrop for the wording of the sign itself. The sign will stand approximately six feet near the entrance of the launch so that it can be visible from the street and from the river.

Krause also mentioned that Council requested adding more signage along the river so that water travelers can see the upcoming launch from both directions.

Lucas then brought up that it might be useful to have signs in different towns that could include mileage to the Delano launch so that travelers could gauge distance.

Werth commented that the bench area upriver could also be a potential sign location that could

dictate how many feet away the upcoming launch is.

The Commission concluded that more signs dictating distance should be placed along the river.

B. Bean Bags Update

Kern postponed the update regarding the bean bags, but he has been communicating with Landscape about other projects. He has been working with LSI on the shade structure for the splashpad and the overhang at the baseball fields, and those projects will likely be ready by next spring.

C. Splashpad Rules Update

Since the last meeting, Council discussed the rules set for the splashpad. The Facebook group also had a discussion about the rules as well. Both Council and Facebook questioned the pricing at the gate and were uncertain about the \$3 cost. The Commission determined that, despite the negativity, they still stood by their decided cost.

Schaffer commented that, if there were different prices for different ages, people will lie about the age of the kids, and it is unfair to ask the attendants to try and determine the age of kids coming in. He also noted that, if Council wants to split fees, there should be a tall ruler present at the gate so that the attendants can charge based on height.

Though the Commission already made a recommendation to Council in regards to the term “resident,” they decided to revisit that discussion in order to provide more information to Council. Kern brought up an idea that the term “resident” could be extended to business owners and employees of businesses town, which would help in terms of economic viability and attractiveness for businesses. Lindquist noted that the TAC does something similar, so defining resident that way may expand inclusivity. Kern replied that there might be some hairsplitting, but that he would still encourage it for the sake of improved businesses. Lucas commented that she still had a hard time with allowing all people in the school district to be included, but she did like the like the business idea.

Lindquist pointed out that, since the system will be a similar barcode entrance fee (as the TAC), it could be possible that employers could get them for their employees. It would be interesting to examine that impact. If Community Education is staffing the place, that throws a unique twist into how the City has a role in the production of the splashpad.

Kern asked Schaffer if it was possible that he could train staff to operate it, to which Schaffer replied yes.

Kern informed the group that Landscape is annoyed with the Facebook thread and that they are trying to plan for the 3rd weekend in September for an exhibit of the splashpad. The shade structure is targeted for that third week as well. It might not be useable that third weekend, but at least people could see it in action and have something to be excited about for the upcoming

year.

The concession building is behind schedule, but the city is receiving block bids. There is 5-10 feet aboveground without concrete in the splashpad area so as to leave room for the concession building, which is why the splashpad may not be useable in September.

Schaffer asked about the operating room, to which Kern replied that Landscape is developing a temporary shed for the operating room. The mechanics are complete though.

Menk asked about a grand opening for next spring, and Kern replied that it has yet to be planned.

Krause brought up that Council was also concerned about parents dropping off young children and leaving them to use the splashpad unsupervised.

Menk opined that it might be good to just wait and see, and Lindquist replied that there is only one shot for starting this event, and the City can't change the rules a month after opening. Lucas wondered if kids 10 and under should be accompanied by an adult, and Berres agreed, saying that parents present would help ensure safety and would reduce hindrance on other guests.

Lindquist brought up that, during football games, TAC staff are totally babysitting kids and that they have to maintain misbehaving children. Schaffer noted that 8-12-year olds utilize the park on their own, and 10-year olds could easily bike to the splashpad and use it without supervision.

Lindquist thought that, if anything, there should be a sign saying that it is the parents' responsibility to watch their kids. Berres agreed and brought up the potentiality of some type of disclaimer. Lindquist noted that the TAC isn't friendly for supervision, and while there are attendants, it isn't the responsibility of the attendants to watch kids.

Kern asked if the Commission thought there should a waiver saying that parents are sending kids at their own risk. Krause asked if that would be too difficult for the attendants, to which Kern replied that non-season pass carrying visitors should also be in the system with the waiver program. He thought that, regardless of whether the kids are 6 or 13, there should be a way to contact parents.

Lucas asked if there can be a pre-registration form online, to which Kern replied definitely. Lucas then mentioned that signage is also key. Berres commented that the Commission and City should strive to communicate this information and make it easy to get information about the splashpad.

Kern agreed, noting that the City did a good job in May and June communicating about the splashpad, as well as other things, but that it understandably decreased communication when it started getting repetitive.

Berres then commented that she could draft information and pass it along to be shared. Kern appreciated the offer and noted that more can always be done in terms of communication, but also that it can never be perfect. Despite the fact that someone posted the staff report with detailed notes about why the splashpad has an entrance fee, people would still argue that they didn't want to pay.

Menk noted that, while he isn't on Facebook, it is crucial to address these comments and share information. Lucas also wanted to stay out of the nasty comments and instead focus on the facts.

The Commission determined that it stands by \$3 cost. The group also recommends incorporating taxpayers into the "resident" definition. It is important there be a review period after the first year of the splashpad. The Commission also recommends not having an age limit in regards to supervision and instead having a disclaimer sign or waivers to be handed out. Linquist made a motion to approve this recommendation and was seconded by Menk; motion carried.

D. New Concession Building Update

Kern gave the update during the splashpad discussion, and it was determined that no other information needed to be discussed.

E. Central Park Ice Rinks

Markon informed the group that, he, Kern, and Mike Huncha discussed the possibility of setting up two different ice rink areas in the park this winter. The first rink would take up the concrete pad and would be used for recreational use. Along with that, the second rink would be on the nearby baseball field and would be used for hockey. DMU could turn on the lights on the infield and the City would add boards to make it more playable. The beer stand in between the two rinks could be a warming house. It wouldn't be anything special, but it could have a heater and be lined with plastic. Markon received quotes from a couple different companies in regards to temporary rink costs. The City already has some boards that can be used for soccer, so the City could mimic what it does for soccer and do the same for hockey. The cost for the new boards and sheets would be around \$12,500. Public works wasn't certain where it could be stored, but something would be figured out.

Another location option would be on the field by the levy, but that would take it away from the Central Park area, the lights, and the warming house. Also, flooding the rink in the Central Park location would be fairly easy.

Schaffer asked if there would there be boards on the recreational rink, to which Markon replied no, that the shoveled snow would likely suffice as the edging. Schaffer then asked how it would be flooded, to which Markon commented that there will be sheeting still underneath.

Menk noted that he was worried about administration, specifically in regards to hockey. Markon commented that the City could try to mitigate the hockey rink as "free play only."

Schaffer liked the idea of the warming house, but was concerned about vandalism. Markon then pointed out that someone would be in charge of locking it up and opening it each day.

Lucas commented that she has been to rinks that have a “donate box” where people can leave skates or sticks for people to use there. Markon replied that one could be placed in the dugout area of the field. There would also be heavy duty mats so people could walk between the rinks and warming house.

Menk asked if the City was also going to flood any neighborhood parks, and Krause replied that the City is avoiding it for the sake of reducing traffic and parking issues in neighborhoods. Many families already flood rinks in their neighborhoods, so the City does not see it fit to intrude on that already thriving practice.

Schaffer brought up that the City could encourage adopt a rink, but Lindquist noted that it would be hard since maintaining ice rinks is a tricky business already, and that it might be hard to try organizing multiple groups to do so. Schaffer still thought that maybe the Commission could still encourage the adopt a rink project in neighborhoods. Lucas asked who would pay, and Schaffer replied that it would be the families themselves. Lucas then replied that, if the City got involved, some people might want reimbursement for their sewer bills.

Schaffer also thought that some sort of circuit could be fun in the art walk, but that it probably couldn't be done until the other rinks were well-established and successful. The Commission did not need to make a decision in regards to the rinks, but they approved of the idea and will plan on discussing it in the future.

5. Other Business

Menk brought up that the Commission should follow up with communication. Berres commented that she would like to follow up with the City Staff who runs communication and work with her. Menk noted that the City doesn't want groups to split up different pages, but that it is good when commissions are active on the Facebook page. Berres was thinking she could do an update from the meeting and then two weeks later do a reminder or “did you hear?” section. This could be particularly helpful when the same question comes up again and again.

6. Adjournment

Lindquist made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Berres; the meeting adjourned at 6:17.