

MINUTES
CITY OF DELANO
Park and Recreation Commission
Wednesday, July 26, 2017
5:00 PM

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call and Approval of Agenda

Present: Tom Schaffer, Mike Lindquist, Marnie Lucas, Sean Peterson, Jonathon Werth, Sarah Berres, Dan Menk

Also present: Jon Sutherland, Council Representative; Phil Kern, City Administrator; Makenzie Krause, Recorder

Werth made a motion to approve the agenda and Berres seconded; motion carried.

3. Minutes

Schaffer wanted to clarify the minutes from last time. He wanted to note that he did not want food and beverages brought into any of the fenced in area. Lindquist made a motion to approve the minutes with this change and Lucas seconded; motion carried.

4. Order of Business

A. Canoe Sign

Krause gave the update that the canoe for the sign is residing at Public Works and is ready to be made into a sign. She also spoke with Emily, the owner of the Paint House, and noted that Emily would be interested in painting it. Lindquist then commented that there are many ways which the sign could be designed. It should be elevated on a post, and it is important that the sign is also tasteful. He also thought that it might be beneficial to have a light shining on it.

B. Bean Bags

Menk brought up that, in downtown Hopkins, there are bean bag boards available in the park area. The city has them for people to play, so he thought it could be something that the City could invest in for its riverside park. Having the option for bean bags could potentially draw people downtown.

Kern then commented that he talked to the downtown business groups and that both Bonde and Lupine are interested in investing in bean bag boards to be placed across from their businesses. Menk then commented that he thought it was a good, low-cost idea to draw people to the area.

Lindquist asked if there was money to purchase concrete for permanent boards, and Kern replied that they are affordable. He also noted that the idea could be passed along to Landscape Structures to see if they had any ideas.

C. Splashpad Discussion

Krause brought up the list of questions regarding the operations of the splashpad that were discussed at the last meeting and asked the commissioners for their opinions on how the questions should be answered.

The first major issue that was discussed was the definition of “resident.” Initially, costs for residents and non-residents were going to be different, but that presented the problem of identifying children that attend Delano schools but do not actually reside within the City limits. Children frequently do not carry ID’s, and it would be difficult to prove or disprove a child’s attendance at the school. Kern noted that the TAC bases its fees using the “school district” method.

After some discussion about prices and the definition of a resident, Berres brought up the idea that, if the City is looking to average \$3 per person, it might be easier to set the gate fee at \$3 per person for all people, regardless of residency. Then, if they were so inclined, City residents could go to City Hall to obtain a season pass for a reduced rate. Non-residents could also get season passes, but they would be at a higher rate. In this discussion, it was decided that season passes would be \$25 for residents and \$35 for non-residents.

There had previously been a concern about charging for infants. Since there are fountains that can be used by children that can crawl, it is possible that some infants could interact with the water, and therefore should be charged to enter. Krause pointed out that babies that are car-seat bound, or those that are not wearing swim diapers, could be allowed in without being charged, but that those that are properly dressed and will be out of their car-seat or stroller should be charged at the gate.

In terms of other age and price restrictions, it was determined that all ages, whether the attendees are 2 or 92, should all be charged \$3. Since ID’s are not required at the gate, it will be difficult for the attendants to determine the age of those entering. Therefore, in order to make it easy for the attendants, anyone entering the splashpad will be charged the same price. \$3 a person is a relatively cheap charge for entertainment, and charging the same fee for all ages is consistent with other splashpads across the state.

Once the gate entry-fee was determined, there was still the issue of identifying a resident for the purchase of a season pass. Kern noted to the group that, while they could make a recommendation either way, City Staff would recommend that Council limit its interpretation of “resident” to those who reside within the City Limits. After considering this and the other arguments made by different commission members, the commission held a vote. 2 members voted that “resident” apply only to those within the limits, while 5 members voted that it apply to all those within the school district.

Lucas brought up a concern that was mentioned on Facebook in regards to baseballs landing on the splashpad. Kern then explained to the commission that a coach had commented on Facebook that he was concerned about kids playing in the splashpad getting hit by foul balls. Kern also pointed out that, while there is a chance that a foul ball could land in the splashpad, there are trees between the splashpad and the fields that could block the balls, and additional

netting could be included. Also, the merry-go-round sits where the splashpad will go, and in the past, there has never been an issue with balls from the adult tournament hitting the splashpad.

Schaffer and Sutherland both asked questions about the new concession stand, so the group proceeded to the next topic before covering all of the questions on the list.

D. New Concession Building

Kern informed the group that the concession stand is currently fenced in with the splashpad, and it is pieced in the space so as to avoid damaging any of the oak trees. There is a big open space within the building that could be used for food/drink for users of the splashpad. There will be some storage for 4th of July materials, but there will be plenty of available space for parties.

The mechanical room is attached to this building, and there will also be a unisex bathroom accessible from the splashpad. External showers, a drinking fountain, and a hose will also be attached to the stand.

In terms of access, the kitchen has a large door that can be used for receiving deliveries. At the center of the building, there are two access doors. There are also 2 garage doors for letting water flow freely in between. This garage door can be used for allowing children to run in and out at birthday parties.

By leaving this area available during regular splashpad hours, we could thus designate it as the “picnic area” where people can have food. People will enter from the other end of the stand.

Alex Rosser wanted us to look at some form of partition, which we think is very doable.

There will be picnic tables scattered outside of the splashpad, and there will be shade structures going within the fenced in area. The sewer lines are being redone.

Sutherland informed the group that, when he examined the plans, he saw that it is a nice stout building. There are some issues, but nothing negative. He thought that the City should have an architect look at it as soon as possible. The height for the concessions needs to be accessible to all people. He also wanted to know if it could be funded as a storm shelter.

Kern replied that Mayor Graunke was helping to plan this building, and there are certainly hurricane tresses that would prevent the roof from flying off. Sutherland then asserted that an architect should ensure that it be built as a storm shelter.

Kern informed the group that the current our emergency plan for the park is the public works building. It is technically correct, but practically not very beneficial. Menk asked if there is any funding available if the new building is built as a storm shelter, to which Kern replied that there was not. A few communities have gotten it before, but out timing is not looking good for it.

Schaffer wanted to note that he did not want fake dormers on the concession building.

Kern also commented that the building will be heated in the winter, not to 72 degrees, but warm enough to fight the chill.

Sutherland also brought up that the City should place solar panels on the roof of the new building. Since the City does not have solar panels, adding them to this building may be a good way to promote them.

5. Other Business

Schaffer informed the group that there were no trashcans in the Fox Meadow Park, and Kern replied that one could easily be purchased. Sutherland then jumped in and pointed out that Atlanta has solar trash cans.

Lindquist brought up the signage and asked if the City is involved with the signs going up at the school. Kern replied that the City is not involved, so Lindquist asked if the school maps could be coordinated with the City signs. He also wanted to ensure that the appropriate addresses would be assigned to the correct landmarks.

Krause brought up that the group had not completed all of the questions on the list, so the group quickly reviewed the remaining questions and agreed with the answers given.

6. Adjournment

Lindquist made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Tom; meeting adjourned at 6:43