

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes of Meeting – June 9, 2011

BOARD MEMBERS: Bill Dickey (present)
John Lair (present)
Todd Loveland (present)
Jerry Waltrip (present)
Christy Watt (present)

STAFF PRESENT: Kim Vogel, Director of Parks and Recreation
Sara Mitchell, Recreation Superintendent
Tammy Edge, Operations Manager

Pittsburg Parks and Recreation Advisory Board met on Thursday, June 9, 2011 at 4:02 pm in Lincoln Center. Bill Dickey called the meeting to order with all members present. The April minutes were given to the board members for review. They were approved by Christy Watt and seconded by Bill Dickey then approved by everyone.

Old Business

Schlanger Park Master Plan

Kim presented the PSU final master plan layout for Schlanger Park to the board and said that she thought they did a good job. Kim also told the board that she had gone and checked out a couple of trains, one in Springfield, MO and one in Rolla, MO, and really liked the way the covering and fencing was done around the trains. To get this look around the train in Schlanger Park it would cost around \$100,000. This would include the shelter, fencing and concrete work around the train. There would still be the cost of repainting the train. She said that the Parks Department would look into different grants that could be used to do the repairs and additions needed.

Pritchett Trust Grants

Kim said that she will submit grants for a shelter to cover the train in Schlanger Park and for the downtown Christmas lights. Memorial Auditorium is not submitting a request this year since they received a nice one in 2010 for the replacement of seating in the auditorium.

Everybody Plays Playground School Fundraiser (final review)

Kim told the board that the area 4th graders did a change for Schlanger fundraiser and ended up raising \$800.90. The top class from each elementary school received a fun day in Schlanger Park with hot dogs and games. Other fundraisers coming up will be a hole in one contest at Four Oaks Golf Course on July 16th in conjunction with the Pre Med Gold Tournament and the Everybody Plays Golf Tournament scheduled for October 8th. Right now there is approximately \$22,000 in the bank and to begin the first section of the playground it would cost \$65,000.

Crawford County Open Baseball Tournament (final review)

This was our first 14 and under baseball tournament and it went well. It was held May 21st & 22nd at Jaycee Ballfield with 5 teams participating. Right now our department only offers adult softball leagues and tournaments and we want to try and put on a few youth baseball and softball tournaments in the future. We had volunteers and staff working the gate, press box and maintaining the field with the only outside staffing being the umpires. Teams were impressed with Jaycee Ballfield and also the staff that ran the tournament. The only problem we had was a severe storm that moved through the area during the championship ballgame Sunday evening. Kim said that one of the teams that came from Missouri followed her to City Hall to take cover. One of the board members wanted to know if there was a designated place for a group to go when bad weather hits the area. Kim said that right now there is no such area located within any of the parks or ballfields. This is probably something that needs to be addressed so that people will know where to go to take cover if there is time to get to a designated location. If not they will just have to take cover in the restrooms or buildings close by. Christi Watt wanted it noted that Toby Book does a nice job keeping Jaycee Ballfield a nice facility.

Mike Watt Baseball Camp (final review)

Kim informed the board that this year the Parks and Recreation Department teamed up with Mike and Christi Watt in putting on the Mike Watt Baseball Camp. The weather was great and it was well organized. Christi said that she really appreciated the Parks and Recreation Department registering the participants. There were 65 kids registered for the camp. This was the 20th year for the camp and thanks to Mike and Christi it has been a very successful camp.

New Business

Aquatic Center

The Aquatic Center is up and running and everything is going well. Sara said that it did take a couple times to fill the pool because there was a crack in an 8" line underneath the concrete behind the diving boards. The Public Works Department helped find the crack, it was repaired and concrete was poured back on Friday, May 27th with the pool opening on Saturday, May 28th. Thanks to everyone helping the pool did open on time.

Review May & June Programs

Sara went over some of the programs with the board members. She explained some of the programs were up and some were down, but for the most everything is going good.

Zumba – May - 38 participants, June – 28 participants

Karate – May – 11 participants, June - 9 participants

Tumbling – May – 9 participants, No June session

Summer Softball League 1 – League began May 16th, Coed – 23, Men – 17, Summer Softball League 2 will begin on June 27th

OK Kid's Day – May 7th, PSU Class helped organize this event, 275 registered participants

Karate Tournament – May 14th, this was the 3rd year for the tournament, 67 participants

Hershey Track and Field – May 14th, on the PSU Campus, 92 participants, weather was a little chilly

British Soccer Camp – June 6th, 26 total participants in 4 different divisions

Swim Lessons – Lessons will have 3 sessions, June 6th, June 27th, and July 18th. Each session is 2 weeks long, Monday through Friday.

Review the Budget

Kim gave everyone an updated copy of the budget to review. There is still some talk on cuts but not sure where they will be and what divisions will be most affected.

Fourth of July

Sara gave the board members a copy of the 4th of July flyer. She told them that the flyer was not completed because she was still working on a few programs and events to be added. This will just be a 2 day event this year. The craft booths are a little down number wise but there are plenty of food vendors. Right now the fireworks fund has \$13,000 budgeted but with the ads that are going out and a few sponsors coming forward they are pretty sure they will reach their quota. Sara also mentioned that Kansas Wildlife and Parks will be paying for the fish that is stocked for the fishing derby. That will be a big help since the cost in the past has been around \$500.00.

Ideas to Increase Softball Participation

Sara told the board that for the last couple of years the softball team numbers have been going down. This year she thought she would try something new during the summer league. Instead of having one long 10 week league she would divide it into two 6 week leagues. Todd Loveland said that he heard a complaint that this was going to cost the players more money. Sara explained that if you look at the overall picture that it comes out about the same. She said that she also did a mailing to all of the area churches to try and get those participation numbers up.

Meeting with Commissioners Ketterman and Gray

Kim said that she had scheduled some meetings to discuss budget and other issues and to explain what her department does as a whole to the newly elected commissioners. She met for about 2 hours with John Ketterman and this was not nearly enough time and hopes to meet with him again in the near future to continue discussing what could not be included in the 2 hour time frame. He seemed very receptive and has attended a number of our events and programs. She also met with Mike Gray and said that meeting went well also.

Comments and Concerns from the Board

Bill Dickey wanted to know if we ever acknowledged our volunteers or people in our community that help with programs and events. Kim said that nothing has been done in the past, except for telling them thank you for all their help, and wanted to know what he had in mind. Bill mentioned that Mike Cole is a person that is always helping out in one way or another. When he is umpiring or refereeing he does not only call the plays as he sees it but takes the time to explain things about the game to the participants. Kim said he is hired to umpire through the JL Hutchinson League but did agree that Mike is a

great asset to the community and area youth. Kim said if the board ever wanted to acknowledge someone they could let the department know and we could see what could be done, because she agrees that without people like Mike Cole it is hard to make some of the programs and events go over as well as they do. With this being said the meeting was adjourned at 5:09pm with the next meeting be set for August 11th, 4:00pm at the Parks and Recreation Department.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Edge