

**PARK BOARD MEETING  
May 10, 2021**

Pursuant to due call and order, the Board of Park Commissioners, Dickinson Park District, met for a Regular Meeting at 4:00 pm, May 10, 2021 at the West River Community Center.

ROLL CALL: Present were Commissioners Scott Kovash, Tim Daniel, Scott Karsky, Jo Marie Kadrmas, Zach Keller. Also present were Director of Recreation/Facilities Matt Mack, Director of Buildings/Grounds Craig Pearson, Executive Director James Kramer, Attorney Randall Sickler and Clerk Leah Hoenke.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTIONED BY: Jo Marie Kadrmas; SECONDED BY: Scott Kovash to approve April 12 and April 30 meeting minutes. Roll call vote: Ayes-5; Nays-0; Absent-0. Motion carried.

CLAIMS: MOTIONED BY: Tim Daniel; SECONDED BY: Zach Keller to approve April Claims in the amount of \$605,911.84. Roll call vote: Ayes-5; Nays-0; Absent-0. Motion carried.

**SPECIAL APPEARANCES – TIMETABLE AGENDA**

4:03 pm – Ryan Nelson retirement – President Scott Kovash presented Ryan Nelson with a retirement plaque. Ryan Nelson retired as Recreation/Facilities Manager after 29 years. The Board thanked Ryan for his years of service.

4:05 pm – New Employee Introduction – Director of Recreation/Facilities Craig Pearson introduced Jaren Wilson, Park Maintenance Specialist who recently started full-time employment. He also introduced new full-time employee Blake Johnson, Facility Maintenance Supervisor who will primarily be working at the West River Ice Center. The Board welcomed our new employees.

4:10 pm – DHS Class Presentation – Dickinson High School’s Health Class gave a presentation in conjunction with a program sponsored by Southwestern District Health Unit. They make presentations to their peers and middle school classes on what it’s like to be them. The group of high school seniors explained the health and mental issues that come along with being a high school student. They suggested more programs and events for teen friendly activities for their age group. Park Board Commissioner Jo Marie Kadrmas thanked them for their presentation. Commissioner Tim Daniel said they are spot on as he teaches health programs at DSU and the class survey was spot on. He commended the class on bringing the issues to the Board. Commissioner Zach Keller commended them as well and said he learned a lot and said the biggest take away as a Park Commissioner is most of our activities are for families with small kids and First on First is geared toward adults and there isn’t much for their age group. President Scott Kovash asked if the stress rate is high because of COVID or is it more than that. One of the students said social media plays a big role as well and COVID made a big difference. Another student said the stress is still there with or without COVID. President Kovash thanked them as well. Executive Director James Kramer said we could start an advisory committee that can include students. Commissioner Scott Karsky said this class is part of the group that got robbed over COVID but also other school events are also starting to lose their luster. One student said high schoolers don’t really care anymore about social events at school. Another said students see things on social media and makes it harder to appreciate the good old fashion fun that used to be. One student said they took a lot for granted before COVID and are now pressing to younger students to get involved in school activities. They said that social media is so addicting and really hard to wean yourself off of. The Board thanked the students for their presentation.

Director of Buildings/Grounds Report – Director of Recreation/Facilities Craig Pearson reported on facilities and said the big focus is the outdoor pool, getting it ready for opening. He said spring has hit and staff is busy with landscape work, along with work at the ice center getting new offices ready and combining storage units for programs and hockey. He reported on parks saying that the crew is done thatching fields and parks, putting fertilizer in parks along with irrigation work; there was a big irrigation break at the Veterans Pavilion. They finished the golf pro office at golf course, put in a new window overlooking the course and did some remodeling. He said they starting doing some mowing this week on the course as well. Director Pearson said they just got in 25, 3 inch diameter trees, most are going to the golf course. Some will go to Hospital Park. At the golf course, trees will go on 12, 14 and 16 to replace the trees we lost. He said especially on 14 we are missing quite a few big size trees. Director Pearson said that Golf Superintendent Sam Davis is for the most part, doing basic maintenance due to seasonal employees just starting. All irrigation breaks are fixed with exception of one that is at the end of a line. He said the irrigation system is running good and this week they will aerify greens starting on Wednesday. Right now they have a limited crew but it is imperative that we get it aerified. He said there is some winter kill and will take some time to recover. Tim Daniel asked about progress on the disc golf course in Memorial Park. Craig said he and Matt Mack have been working with Darrel Nodland, putting in new tees and baskets, moved some of the holes. Most of the project was started several years ago and was never finished. We will finish all disc golf projects at Memorial, Jaycee and Patterson Lake. Director of Recreation/Facilities Matt Mack said we are having the State Disc Golf Tournament at Patterson Lake this year. He said we met with Disc Golf Club and put together a big push to get the project done, project will be completed as soon as possible. Matt said he will check into a timeline and let the Board know.

Project Summary (Attachment #1-2) – Executive Director James Kramer said they have met with Friendship Park and Hero’s Park groups. He said we have the letter that our Federal grant for Friendship Park was awarded but we cannot start construction until the grant is received. The group had a fundraiser this past weekend, but right now the grant is what is holding things up.

Director of Recreation/Facilities Report (Matt Mack) – Director Matt Mack reported that we have 5,796 memberships at the community center. He said the biggest change was the 3 month memberships from our spring special have expired. He said now we are trying to push 3 month memberships to start the summer to go along with the outdoor pool. We only saw a decrease of 5 annual memberships but it was the 3 month members that made the difference in decrease of memberships. He also reported that the outdoor pool staff training is set for end of May preparing for the June 1 opening. Director Mack then reported on Heart River Golf Course, season passes are 512 compared to 436 last year at the same time. 71 driving range passes have been sold. Golf rounds are 2070 rounds to date. For golf league, we have enough teams to do a 12 team league on Thursday nights. There are 48 men’s teams on Monday, 25 for women’s on Wednesdays and 12 men’s on Thursdays. He also reported on recreation with sand volleyball having 15 women’s teams, 7 teams up from last year. There are 64 teams for softball, which is same as last year. Youth programming starts the week of June 7 and staff is busy prepping for summer programs. Bandshell concerts begin June 14. Director Mack reported that our Play Park program initially had a number of kids on the waiting list and now we extended the program to 60 kids per session and have been able to accommodate most off the wait list. He said we are also offering a pop up play for ages 7-12 which is a free program to provide a program in the smaller neighborhood parks providing opportunities to kids that maybe can’t participate otherwise. He said we will have staff there but it will be a drop in program with no registration. Any child ages 7-12 is welcome without parental supervision. Under 7 must have a person ages 16+ with them. Director Mack mentioned that he doesn’t have many staffing problems with most programs other than softball league, still looking for umpires.

Pledge securities – MOTIONED BY: Scott Karsky; SECONDED BY: Tim Daniel to approve the Pledged Securities. Roll call vote: Ayes-5; Nays-0; Absent-0. Motion carried.

April Financial (Attachment #4) – Executive Director James Kramer compared the April financial back to 2019. He said the general fund revenue is looking good and is up from 2019. He also pointed out the WRCC Fund net revenue is in the negative \$144,000 at the end of April.

2022 Budget Process (Attachment #5) – Executive Director Kramer reviewed the timeline to start planning for the next budget season. He said Key dates are preliminary budget approval is Aug. 9 and final will be sept 24, due at county sept 10.

Patterson Lake Cabin Site Appraisal (Attachment #6) – Executive Director Kramer reviewed the Appraisal Report from Dakota Appraisal & Consulting who was the same appraiser that Jamestown used. He said this is the next step to present to cabin owners. The City Commission will approve next Tuesday and our attorney, Randy Sickler has reviewed the appraisal document as well. Attorney Sickler said we had to have a third party appraisal according to the land conveyance agreement. Commissioner Scott Karsky said he thinks the appraisals look good. President Kovash entertained a motion. MOTIONED BY: Zach Keller; SECONDED BY: Jo Marie Kadrmias to approve the 42 Patterson Lake Cabin Lots Appraisal Report. Roll call vote: Ayes-5; Nays-0; Absent-0. Motion carried.

Park District Improvement Project (Attachments 7-8) – Executive Director Kramer reviewed the Park District Improvement Project and said they were not able to work out all the kinks. He said the next step is to get Northern Improvements and Highland Engineering together with himself and our attorney to come to an agreement. He said the dollar amount is substantially more and we weren’t able to get the final number resolved before this meeting. We have an approved notice of award but that final number will need to be resolved. He said we may need to have another meeting in May to finalize.

Director Report – Executive Director Kramer reported that the State of the City is next week, Thursday, May 20. The City has also scheduled a joint meeting with the Park Board on May 18 but it conflicts with another meeting. He said we requested to get on the same page, it has been 2 years since we last met together. He said he will get that meeting date finalized and let the Board know. He had nothing else to report.

Adjournment – MOTIONED BY: Tim Daniel; SECONDED BY: Jo Marie to adjourn the meeting at 5:03 pm. Upon vote, all aye. Motion carried.

PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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Clerk

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President