

**Park Board Meeting
May 12, 2025**

Pursuant to due call and order, the Board of Park Commissioners, Dickinson Park District, met for a Regular Meeting at 3:30 pm on Monday, May 12, 2025, at the West River Community Center.

ROLL CALL: Present were Commissioners Scott Karsky, Tim Daniel, Zach Keller, Tyler Tucker, Nic Stevenson. Also, present were Executive Director/Clerk Benjamin Rae, Director of Buildings/Grounds Craig Pearson, Director of Recreation/Facilities Caleb Burgard, and Administrative Manager Leah Hoenke.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: MOTIONED BY: Tyler Tucker; SECONDED BY: Zach Keller to approve the agenda as provided. Roll call vote: Ayes-5; Nays-0; Absent-0. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA – Consent agenda items were presented for approval as follows. Meeting minutes from April 14 and April 28; Claims in the amount of \$840,842.14; and YUM Outdoor Pool Agreement. MOTIONED BY: Nic Stevenson; SECONDED BY: Tyler Tucker to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Roll call vote: Ayes-5; Nays-0; Absent-0. Motion carried.

BUILDINGS/GROUNDS

Director of Buildings/Grounds Report – Director Craig Pearson provided a written report for informational purposes. Pearson added that we reopened the ice center maintenance position. Commissioner Zach Keller asked about the irrigation for the new soccer fields at Sanford complex. Director Pearson said it is in and up and running and said that all irrigation is running throughout the district. Commissioner Tyler Tucker asked about the outdoor pool leaks. Director Pearson said all repairs have been made and Horizon will be here in a week to do their part of the repairs and then we will start filling the pool.

RECREATION/FACILITIES

Director of Recreation/Facilities Report – Director Caleb Burgard provided a written report for informational purposes. Director Burgard had no additions to the written report. Commissioner Tucker asked about golf operations. Director Burgard said early indications are we are doing well on season passes and rounds. Commissioner Nic Stevenson asked about lifeguards. Director Burgard said ideally, we would like another 10 to 15 lifeguards for the season.

BUSINESS/FINANCE

April Financial – Executive Director Benjamin Rae said overall the financial looks good. MOTIONED BY: Zach Keller; SECONDED BY: Tyler Tucker to approve the April financial as presented. Roll call vote: Ayes-5; Nays-0; Absent-0. Motion carried.

Model Airport Agreement – Executive Director Benjamin Rae said he was approached by a group regarding model airplanes on the westside of Patterson Lake and north side of the Heart River – the area has been used for model airplanes in the past. They would like to make improvements to some of the shade structures, and it was talked about that we would put together an agreement. Director Rae stated that it allows us to have their information to be able to pass to the public for others that are interested. Mr. Dan Roller from the Slope Area Golden Eagles (SAGE) was present to answer any questions. Mr. Roller said currently there is no need for utilities, it is just the property. He said currently there are four individuals that are flying but they are hoping to grow, saying that he has been flying since the 1980s and would like to continue the work that was originally done out there. He stated that SAGE is a non-profit group and has been maintaining the area with the mower that was originally purchased by the club. He also said there are new regulations on drones that prohibit people from flying. Anything that flies and has a remote control is required to have a drone license. Commissioner Tyler Tucker asked about drone usage. Mr. Roller said anybody can fly there, any unmanned aircraft is considered a drone. Commissioner Tucker said the reason he asked is because drone racing is starting to become popular. Mr. Roller said if that brings more interest, the group is welcome to it and are hoping to attract more interest. Executive Director Benjamin Rae stated that staff recommend approval of the agreement. After no further discussion, a motion was entertained. MOTIONED BY: Nic Stevenson; SECONDED BY: Tim Daniel to approve the Land Use License Agreement between the Park District and Slope Area Gold Eagles. Roll call vote: Ayes-5; Nays-0; Absent-0. Motion carried.

Executive Director Report – Executive Director Benjamin Rae provided a written report for informational purposes. Director Rae said he did get an update on the legislative recap that is included in the report. He said one area of interest is that all Park Board members will be required to disclose financial interest and that it will be recorded with the Secretary of State. Director Rae also reported that we are running into budget season. Budget meetings will be held throughout the summer. Commissioner Keller asked about the budget process and the 3 percent cap. Director Rae said that he has informed the staff where our priorities will be, he told the staff to not expect any approval for full or part-time positions due to the budget situation but is giving the opportunity to make adjustments. President Scott Karsky asked if the income coming in is ahead of what we were forecasting. Director Rae said we feel comfortable where things are trending and that will impact how we look at budget this year, specifically at the golf course. Where it stands now the park district will be able to levy around \$65,000. He said we anticipate a 5 percent increase in the cost of benefits and are trying to shift things around to give greater flexibility.

Adjournment – MOTIONED BY: Tyler Tucker; SECONDED BY: Tim Daniel to adjourn the meeting at 3:51 pm. All aye, motion carried.

PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Clerk

President