

**OSSEO PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
October 8, 2019**

**5 A**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Osseo Parks & Recreation Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Kerstin Schulz at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 8, 2019.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Committee members Dee Bonn, Harold Johnson, Orlando Ponce, Kerstin Schulz, Brittney Quant, and Alden Webster.

Absent: Larry Stelmach

Others present: City Planner Nancy Abts

3. APPROVE AGENDA

**A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Bonn, to approve the meeting's agenda. The motion passed 6-0.**

4. APPROVE MINUTES

**A motion was made by Bonn, seconded by Webster, to approve the April 2, 2019, meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed 6-0.**

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Schulz advised the public that this is the time for public comments. There were no comments offered.

6. SPECIAL BUSINESS

There was no special business.

7. BUDGET UPDATE

Abts reviewed the year-to-date budget expenditures with the Commission.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2019 SUMMER YOUTH RECREATION REVIEW

Abts stated the 2019 program saw another high level of participation. This year included 221 class registrations (down from 227 in 2018, when we also offered Fall classes), which includes approximately 20 percent registering for more than one class. All told, there were just under 180 different kids participating in classes this year. Of those students, around 23% were Osseo residents with others coming from surrounding communities and some as far away as Ramsey, Plymouth, Bloomington, and Crystal.

Abts explained a survey was emailed to parents of Summer 1 & Summer 2 participants. Of 155 email recipients, 31 people completed the survey, approximately 20 percent. Comments were generally positive, with most concerns relating to specific staff members and class structure. Respondents also provided some suggestions for improvements and future programming.

Abts reported with the price increase to \$35/resident, \$50/non-resident, the subsidy for Osseo student registrations was approximately \$250. However, with the increased rate for non-residents, the programming portion of the class had a net gain of approximately \$200 overall. Other hard costs for the program include renting a port-a-potty for the Osseo Education Center site and advertising. A portion of credit card transaction fees is also subtracted from the revenue. Overall, online registration worked very well this year.

Ponce stated he enrolled his son in the summer youth programs. He provided feedback on the coaching and communications from Revolutionary Sports. He believed communication could be improved regarding when sessions were being canceled. Abts explained City staff was working with Revolutionary Sports to clarify expectations and noted all future notifications would be coming from the City.

Ponce indicated his son loved the programming and stated he was happy to see parents getting involved in the programs.

Johnson asked if a fall program could be held in the community center. Abts commented this may be difficult given the fact fall sports would include soccer and football, which may require more space than the community center has available.

Ponce encouraged the City to consider winter programming to include wrestling and hockey. He feared that the wrestling program in Osseo would fail if additional support were not offered. He stated the Osseo wrestling program would be holding a board meeting in the coming weeks and he would have further information after this meeting. He noted the wrestling season begins on Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Webster and Johnson supported the City promoting wrestling in Osseo.

**A motion was made by Ponce, seconded by Webster, to recommend the City Council allow for the promotion of Osseo Youth Wrestling in the City of Osseo with further information to be provided by Commissioner Ponce.**

Johnson supported wrestling being promoted on the City's website, through social media and on the Gateway Sign.

**The motion passed 6-0.**

**A motion was made by Bonn, seconded by Quant, to recommend the City Council continue the Youth Recreation Program for 2020 and set aside funding within the budget. The motion passed 6-0.**

B. 2019 TEEN & 'TWEEN' RECREATION REBATE REVIEW

Abts stated to date, there have been rebates issued for 18 Osseo residents between the ages of 9 and 17. Population estimates of Osseo predict there are 85 ( $\pm 35$ ) residents between the age 10-14 in the City and 61 ( $\pm 32$ ) residents age 15-19, so excluding the margin of error on the estimates, the participation rate was around 12%. (For comparison, there are an estimated 300 ( $\pm 82$ ) residents age 0-9 in Osseo, and Osseo resident participation in RevSports programs equaled approximately 20% of that age group).

Abts reported of the 18 participants, 9 were part of a program at Get it Done Fitness, 7 participated at Spark School of Music, and one student participated at each Escalate Dance Studio and Yellow Tree Theater.

Abts explained most of the participants are students at ISD 279 Osseo Area Schools, with 10 participants spread between Osseo Middle School, Osseo Senior High, and Elm Creek and Fernbrook Elementary Schools. Four students attend Parnassus Preparatory School, and 3 attend Pact Charter School. Pact Charter School and Parnassus Prep start the school year the last week of August, while ISD 279 starts school after Labor Day. Pact Charter school ends their year on May 21, while ISD 279 continues to June 5 and Parnassus continues to June 11.

Johnson stated the Council supported this program as a way to promote local businesses while also encouraging local youth activities. He asked what feedback the City received from businesses on the pilot program. Abts commented she received feedback that the City's timing was a bit delayed, but overall businesses appreciated the program and some were promoting the pilot program themselves.

Schulz indicated it would benefit residents and businesses for the City to promote this program earlier in 2020. She believed the pilot program went well. She commented on the amount of money that was spent and collected for the youth recreation programs in 2019. She supported the recreation rebate program remaining the same for 2020. She believed it was too much to ask small business owners to provide Osseo residents a certain percentage discount for the programs.

Ponce agreed it may be difficult for small business owners to provide a discount for Osseo youth participants.

Schulz reiterated that money was being collected for youth sports programs and was not being collected for senior programming. For this reason, she believed the teen recreation rebate program should continue as is.

Ponce supported a very minimal percentage be considered (5-10% rebate) if discounts were being sought from local business owners. Abts commented on the variety of strategies used by other communities to provide lower resident rates for recreation programs.

Schulz stated she was pleased by the participation rate in 2019 and indicated she would like to see this program grow in 2020. She explained her children participated in the Get It Done Fitness program this summer and stated it was very well done. She questioned what the City's goal was for its recreational programs. Abts stated she would like more feedback from the Commission as to the City's goals with respect to its recreational programming.

Ponce supported the City offering the same program for youth in the winter months to keep kids active when they are spending more time indoors.

Johnson recommended the recreation rebate program continue as is during 2020 and that no additional discount be pursued from local business owners at this time. He supported the promotion of Osseo businesses and wanted to see this community continuing to thrive.

Ponce suggested the recreation rebate program be promoted in the spring newsletter in 2020.

Johnson suggested the Commission make a recommendation to the City Council to ensure adequate funding was set aside in the 2020 budget.

**A motion was made by Bonn, seconded by Quant, to recommend the City Council continue the Teen Recreation Rebate Program for 2020 and set aside funding within the budget. The motion passed 6-0.**

#### C. 2019 MUSIC & MOVIES IN THE PARK REVIEW

Abts stated the 2019 Music & Movies in the Park events generally occurred as scheduled. However, the Classic Big Band concert planned for July 9 was moved to the July 30 rain date. Due to poor weather on August 13, the Spark School of Music performance was moved indoors and the Coco screening was cancelled. Ed Columbus and Dee Bonn served as volunteers for the series, and a Movie Attendant was hired to assist with AV set up and take down of the movie screen.

Abts indicated food trucks were hosted at events in July and August. Despite initial difficulties in recruiting food trucks to participate, things seemed to go well. Vendors reported an average of 60-100 total sales. Good weather improved attendance. Vendors seemed to appreciate being the only food truck at the event. One vendor suggested it might be nice to set up for lunchtime sales as well.

Abts reported for 2018 and 2019 an online interest form was used to solicit interest from potential performers. This worked well and can be used again for 2020. Other suggestions regarding specific performers can be reviewed by a subcommittee when drafting a schedule of future events.

Ponce asked if the City received any feedback regarding dogs in the park. Abts commented she had not received any feedback.

Bonn stated it was her understanding there was nothing the City could do to keep dogs from being in specific areas in the park. She explained the Osseo Public Works crew did an amazing job maintaining the park this summer.

Schulz commented she heard a great deal of positive feedback regarding the food trucks and encouraged the City to continue having food trucks in 2020.

Bonn agreed stating the food trucks were a great addition to the music and movies in the park events.

Quant recommended the food trucks begin in June and run through the entire summer.

Johnson supported this recommendation. He encouraged staff to pursue local talent for music in the park events.

Bonn asked if a subcommittee should be formed to begin planning for the 2020 music and movies in the park events.

**A motion was made by Webster, seconded by Ponce, to recommend Bonn and Schulz serve on a Subcommittee to begin planning for the 2020 Music and Movies in the Park events. The motion passed 6-0.**

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. DISCUSS SIPE PARK LIGHTING

Abts stated last year, youth fall sports classes were limited by early sunset times. The City rented portable lights, powered by a generator, to allow the programs to continue. She commented this year, several people asked about fall programs. However, without lighting, we were not able to offer them. The rental lights were expensive and time-consuming because two sets of lights had to be picked up and returned to Broadway Rental weekly.

Abts reported staff has discussed adding lighting to Sipe Park. The Committee should discuss whether to continue to look into this. The Committee may also want to discuss what type of lighting should be considered. Permanent lighting might be easier to operate. If the City purchases its own portable generator lights, the cost for new units ranges from \$15,000 to \$25,000. At least two would be needed. However, the Police and Fire Departments might be able to use them occasionally.

Bonn asked if the Fire Department had any generator lights. Abts commented the Fire Department did have emergency lights but the lights were not available for use in the park.

Johnson commented the Minnesota Twins assisted with installing lights at Memorial Park. He stated he did not support the installation of permanent lights at Sipe Park.

Ponce questioned how much more the park would be used if lights were installed. Abts stated this would depend on how late the City wanted to have the park open. She anticipated lights would allow for some additional use, but could not be certain of the exact amount of time.

Further discussion ensued regarding the number of youth that participated in the fall programming in 2018, along with the cost of renting lights for the park.

Ponce supported the City renting lights for Sipe Park given the fact the cost was minimal when compared to installing permanent lights. Abts noted there was an additional expense of staff time to pick up and return the rental lights each time they are used.

Ponce questioned if the school fields could be used in the fall for youth programming. Abts stated she could investigate this further and would report back to the Commission.

B. 2020 STEP TO IT CHALLENGE PROGRAMMING

Abts stated two years ago, the City hosted a kick-off walk on the first day of the Step to it Challenge that was well received, despite the rain. (Several people asked if another kickoff walk would take place in 2018.) In 2019, the City organized weekly Tuesday evening “Step to it” Events including a Kickoff Walk, Park Cleanups, a Walk with a Tot and a Walk with a Cop.

Abts reported the 2019 events saw modest participation. If the Committee would like to coordinate a 2020 promotion, maybe local health & wellness services would like to host their own public events or classes during the May challenge (e.g., Get it Done Fitness, Anytime Fitness, The Wellness Boutique, Jai Dee.) The City could cross-promote the events on a Step to it Calendar in exchange for the businesses sharing Step to it information with their customers.

Ponce stated the kick-off event was very well done.

Schulz stated she attended one of the Tuesday night events, but noted it was difficult for her family to make a 4:30 p.m. event given the fact her kids were in school.

Bonn suggested the City speak with the local health clubs to encourage them to offer a special class in May in coordination with the Step to it Challenge or have a free sample night to encourage gym membership and fitness in Osseo.

Ponce stated this was a great idea.

The Commission agreed to continue discussing ideas for the Step to it challenge for 2020 at future meetings.

10. UPCOMING EVENTS

Abts reported tree planting would occur at the Osseo Orchard on Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and volunteers were needed.

Abts stated a Halloween Movie in the Park event would be held on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. She indicated Hocus Pocus, Toy Story 4 or Monsters, Inc. could be screened. The Commission supported staff having a poll on social media to select the movie that would be screened.

Abts explained the Lions Halloween Event would be held on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Abts noted Minidazzle would be held on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and the Lions Lunch with Santa would be held on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Schulz reported Small Business Saturday in the City of Osseo would be held on Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Johnson commented on the tree trimming that would occur on Central Avenue and discussed how a subcommittee was discussing the issues with the pavers along Central Avenue.

11. STAFF & COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Abts stated she would be attending the Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association Conference at Earle Brown on November 5<sup>th</sup> and November 6<sup>th</sup>. She encouraged Commission members to consider attending this event.

Abts suggested the next Parks and Recreation meeting be held on Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> to accommodate CCX Media's scheduling constraints.

Bonn commented the Gentle Yoga class was open to all ages on Mondays at 4:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

12. ADJOURNMENT

**A motion was made Bonn, seconded by Ponce, to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. The motion carried 6-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Guenther  
*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*