

**OSSEO PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
February 5, 2018**

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Osseo Parks & Recreation Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Kerstin Schulz at 6:00 p.m., Monday, February 5, 2018.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Committee members Dee Bonn, Kerstin Schulz, Alden Webster, and Brittney Quant

Absent: Larry Stelmach, Sloan Wallgren, and Anne Zelenak

Others present: Ed Columbus, Joan Columbus, Ken Peloquin, Mike Danelius, City Planner Nancy Abts

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A motion was made by Bonn, seconded by Webster, to elect Kerstin Schulz as Chair and Sloan Wallgren as Vice Chair. The motion passed 4-0.

4. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Quant, seconded by Bonn, to approve the meeting's agenda. The motion passed 4-0.

5. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by Bonn, seconded by Webster, to approve the November 7, 2017, meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed 4-0.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kerstin advised the public that this is the time for public comments. There were no comments from the public.

7. SPECIAL BUSINESS

8. BUDGET UPDATE

Nancy updated the committee on the approved 2018 budget and 2017 expenditures. She mentioned that the budget items show what was included in the general fund budget. It does not show revenue; for example, the income from registration fees for youth programs is not included here.

9. OLD BUSINESS

A. CONSIDER DOWNTOWN BANNER DESIGN CONTEST

Nancy presented information on a contest for downtown banners. The City of Richfield had a similar contest to solicit art for their utility boxes. The Osseo materials are based on that contest.

Following a recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Committee, the contest would be approved by the City Council. Entries would be due in late March, and would be reviewed by the Committee on April 3. The City Council would announce the winners and order banners on their April 9 meeting. This would give time for the banners to be printed and put up before the car show.

Committee members suggested sharing the contest with local high schools. Brittney asked if there would be any age limit on the people who could submit art. Nancy agreed to look into this.

A motion was made by Bonn, seconded by Webster, to recommend the City Council approve the contest. The motion passed 4-0.

B. OUTDOOR RINK UPDATE

Nancy shared preliminary information on use of the outdoor skating rinks. During the times the warming house is open, attendants have been counting the number of users. The number of skaters fluctuates, and it does not seem to be related to the outdoor temperature. Information will be collected throughout the winter when the rinks are open.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2018 YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM

Nancy reviewed suggestions for the 2018 youth sports program. In 2017, the City of Osseo contracted with Revolutionary Sports to provide youth sports programs. The programs were well received, and the provider was easy to work with.

For 2018, RevSports has proposed adding spring and fall seasons to the summer sports class sessions. Like the two summer sessions offered in 2017, the spring and fall seasons would last 6 weeks. RevSports suggests offering 2-4 sports per night, one night a week. This offers more options for families with multiple kids, and more 'back up' options if a sport is cancelled. They have not found that many families participate two nights a week. Mondays or Wednesdays remain possible days for the programs. Due to potential holiday conflicts, alternating between Mondays are suggested for the first Summer and Fall sessions, & Wednesdays are suggested for the Spring and second Summer sessions.

For most sports, the program may also need to consider a change of venue from Sipe Park to the fields at the Osseo Education Center (former Elementary School). With the new picnic shelter, there is limited space at Sipe Park for the programs, and RevSports appreciates the opportunity to have a dedicated space with no user conflicts. Especially if two programs are offered at the same time, it is helpful to be able to spread out. According to the school district, no other groups reserve the fields there.

She also asked that the Committee consider offering a sports day camp program for 2018. If the program is much larger than what was provided in 2017 (when 12 campers participated), RevSports has requested more space to use as a backup indoor location to use during inclement weather. The Osseo Education Center or other ISD 279 property may be available for use (for a modest cost) for these purposes. However, facility availability may limit when these camps can be offered.

The committee discussed how the day camps in 2017 had proceeded. A small session was held in August. Planned camps in June and July were cancelled due to low enrollment. Perhaps the City could just offer one larger session in 2018. Moving to a different facility could allow a larger enrollment.

The committee was unsure if outdoor spring classes would be popular, due to the weather. Spring is also a busy time for students and families. The committee recommended keeping the days of the week as presented in the packet, with the first summer session on Mondays and second summer session on Wednesdays. The committee also agreed with the sports programs suggested.

A motion was made by Bonn, seconded by Quant to recommend the City Council approve the programs as presented, but removing the spring session. The motion passed 4-0.

B. 2018 MUSIC AND MOVIES IN THE PARK

Nancy explained that Osseo is being considered for a \$5,000 grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council (MRAC) to support the 2018 events series. The official award notification for this grant will come on March 28, 2018. If the City wishes to be eligible for this funding, no items in the project budget can be expended, or financial or other commitments made before this date. Additionally, grantees must wait until award notification before printing and/or distributing publicity materials. Until the award notification, only preliminary planning can take place.

Preliminary programming options have been prepared for two scenarios: a “low budget” option that does not include the \$5,000 grant award, and a “high budget” option that does account for the grant funds.

The High Budget scenario includes more performances and an additional movie screening, as well as funding for “transportation” to provide shuttle services to and from the concerts. The MRAC grant emphasizes cultural diversity, artistic quality, and expanding access to the arts. The event series proposed under the “high budget” scenario reflects these goals.

Dee Bonn has volunteered to help set up the events, assist attendees, and deliver checks to the performers at the end of the evening. An emcee or announcer for the series will likely also be needed. Staffing to set up and take down the movie equipment will be needed. Both budget scenarios include the cost of hiring a part time “park attendant” for this work.

Taking these recommendations into account, the Subcommittee has prepared a recommended schedule of summer programming. Events are recommended for Tuesday nights, beginning on June 12 and continuing through August 14 (low-budget scenario) or August 28 (if a \$5,000 grant is received). One Tuesday is held at the end of the season as a rain date, for concerts rescheduled in case of inclement weather. Movies can be re-shown at

no additional cost for up to one year; the 2018 schedule includes one movie that was paid for in 2017 but not shown due to weather.

Music and presentations will be scheduled for 7:00 pm, with movies scheduled for dusk (sunset times vary from approximately 9 pm in June and early July, to 8:30 in mid-August). Concession vendors whose proceeds will support local nonprofits operating in Osseo will be allowed (vendors will be selected later).

Kerstin noted she felt strongly that movies be included so more families were involved, and keeping a consistent schedule (like the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays) was important. She suggested adding movies after some of the most popular concerts. She also noted that the Night to Unite Committee may also want to host a concert and/or movie on the first Tuesday in August. This would be 6 movies, or 7 if one is on Night to Unite. Concerts would be held on other nights. A presentation from an “animal” organization—Snake Discovery, the Raptor Center, etc.—could also be scheduled before a movie.

Dee mentioned she thought Jack and Kitty would be a good performance for both kids and adults. She noted there can be a long gap between the farmers market closing at 7 pm and movies starting closer to 9 in June and July. She thought adding some programming to bridge that gap could encourage people to stay around.

Ken Peloquin wondered if the committee would like Lions Club members to assist with the events again this year. He noted he and several other members had been present at past events. Ed Columbus stated he no longer had the Lions sound system, but that it might be available with needed.

Dee agreed that the Lions were very important in the city and she thought the Lions should be involved. Committee members agreed. They thought the Lions members provided good camaraderie. Lions representatives noted they may need to involve more members to help with the events.

Dee stated the city was considering finding movie attendants to help with set up and take down of the screen and projector. Kerstin suggested looking for boy scouts or youth groups that might help with setup and take down, in exchange for a donation. Ed Columbus acknowledged that the screen and projector were complicated and potentially dangerous, and that someone doing this job would have to be fairly strong and tall. He did not recommend a changing cast of volunteers do the work. Nancy agreed to look into the City’s ability to make donations to groups in exchange for these kind of services.

The group discussed whether nonprofit groups would be invited to sell concessions again. The committee noted that this had been popular in the past. Nancy stated that no groups had been contacted yet. For now, the city was focusing on the event schedule.

Mike Danelius asked about the specifics of the grant the City had applied for. Nancy explained that the Community Arts grant was provided by the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council. It was intended to extend access to the arts to communities through the metro. Osseo’s application focused on continuing to increase access to quality arts programming. This could include more performances, bringing in new performers or musical styles, providing transportation for community members with limited mobility.

The Committee discussed potential performers and agreed to continue planning at the April meeting.

11. UPCOMING EVENTS

The Committee reviewed upcoming events, including the Lions Pancake Breakfast and Osseo Fire Department Relief Association Easter Egg Hunt.

12. STAFF & COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

A. UPDATE ON SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT

Nancy informed the Committee that the City Council was working on a Special Event Permit. This was first discussed by the Committee in July 2016. The permit was discussed at a January 22 work session and would continue to be revised. The intention is to ensure that all event planning considerations are taken into account when there are big events. The Parks and Recreation Committee would likely not be involved in reviewing permit applications.

B. OSSEO ORCHARD UPDATE

Nancy noted that The Food Group was working to organize a fruit tree care and pruning workshop at the orchard in the coming months. The event will be promoted on Osseo's social media accounts and at Council meetings.

Alden asked if the city was looking for more members for the Parks and Recreation Committee. Nancy reported that the committee had all seven seats filled. There were positions on the Economic Development Authority and Public Safety Advisory Commission.

13. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made Webster, seconded by Bonn, to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 p.m. The motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy S. Abts
City Planner