

**OSSEO PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
October 5, 2021**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Osseo Parks & Recreation Committee meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Ashlee Mueller at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 5, 2021.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Committee members Dee Bonn, Ashlee Mueller, Larry Stelmach, Dori Trossen, Alicia Vickerman, and Kara Wolf.

Absent: Committee member Kerstin Schulz.

Others present: Community Management Coordinator Joe Amerman

3. WELCOME NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Amerman welcomed new committee Dori Trossen and Kara Wolf to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

4. APPROVE AGENDA

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

5. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by Vickerman, seconded by Bonn, to approve the June 1, 2021, meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed 6-0.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

7. SPECIAL BUSINESS

There was no special business.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. REVIEW OF OSSEO SUMMER YOUTH RECREATION 2021

Amerman stated at the December 2020 meeting of the Osseo Parks and Recreation Committee meeting the Committee decided to once again partner with Revolutionary Sports to provide youth sports options for children ages 2-12. This year saw 392 individual class registrations, up from 221 in 2019, a 77% increase. The total number of children registering increased from 180 in 2019 to 232 in 2021, an increase of 29%. It's difficult to

identify precisely why we saw such a large increase in participation, though in discussion with our partner RevSports, it is likely a combination of a post-covid bump and comparatively low registration fees relative to our metro neighbors. While no survey was conducted, anecdotal feedback was overwhelmingly positive. He commented further on the per child rates that were paid by Osseo residents and non-residents, along with the fee paid to RevSports. It was noted the transition to a new software program would benefit the City and reduce the amount of time staff spends on registrations. Staff asked for comments or suggestions for next year.

Mueller reported her son had a wonderful time participating in baseball and soccer. She explained she was super impressed by the coaches.

Vickerman questioned if staff had data on attendance rates. Amerman stated he could get this information from RevSports.

Vickerman asked if the learning center worked better than Sipe Park. Amerman commented he did not receive any feedback regarding this change.

Vickerman stated she greatly appreciated this programming being offered by the City of Osseo.

Stelmach supported the programming being located at the learning center. He appreciated the fact the City was offering this programming at an attractive price point for families. He anticipated this programming was drawing people into Osseo from outside the community.

Trossen commented she has two sons that participated in the sports programs and both really enjoyed their activities. She stated it may benefit the City to find a way to encourage older kids to try new sports when they are a little bit older.

B. REVIEW MUSIC AND MOVIES IN THE PARK 2021

Amerman stated the 2021 Music and Movies in the Park event series began on June 15th with a performance by the Dirty Shorts Brass Band and concluded on August 24th with a night of music put on by the Yellow Tree Theatre. August 31st was set aside as a rain date, but fortunately this did not prove to be necessary. Food trucks were present, with the exception of one date, from July 13th on. This coincided with the start of the Osseo Farmers Market, which food trucks found appealing because they were guaranteed some foot traffic starting at an earlier time of day. Throughout the series Ed Columbus of the Osseo Lions served as Master of Ceremonies and oversaw the set-up of our sunset movies. Two movie attendants hired by the Public Works Department to manage set-up and tear down of the movie screening equipment did an excellent job this year, and Public Works Director Nick Waldbillig has recommended that they be hired again in 2022. He reviewed the expenses from the 2021 season and noted the balance remaining in the Music and Movie in the Park fund was \$10,600. He thanked all of the local organizations that made generous donations to this fund.

Stelmach explained he really enjoyed attending these events in the community. He suggested staff reach out to food trucks earlier in order to get them locked in for these events. He understood that local businesses were interested in sponsoring or helping to fund the weekly events.

Bonn asked if the food trucks were charged a license fee in order to attend these events. Amerman explained the City was not charging the \$50 transient merchant fee to food trucks.

Bonn supported the City not charging a fee to food trucks again in 2022.

Stelmach stated another option the Council has considered would be to take a deposit and if all goes well and the vendor cleans up after themselves, this deposit is returned. If the vendors mess was not cleaned up, then the deposit would be kept by the City.

Mueller questioned what food trucks were the most popular. Amerman commented he was uncertain, but could look into this further.

Mueller reported she heard great things about the Tex Mex food truck from Anoka. She asked if dessert trucks should be brought in. Amerman explained the City has not done this out of respect to Ed Columbus noting he had an ice cream cart at the events.

Wolf questioned if two food trucks could be brought in each night to reduce the long wait lines. Amerman stated this may be difficult because there were not enough people to support two food trucks.

Stelmach appreciated how the Music and Movies in the Park events were growing and drawing more people into the community. He anticipated the events would eventually be able to support two food trucks.

Bonn explained as she introduced herself to the food truck vendors each week, she learned that they really appreciated the fact there was only one food truck onsite.

Vickerman questioned when the group should begin looking for sponsors for next years events.

Stelmach suggested the Council and Parks and Recreation align and consider its goals and then consider holding conversations with local businesses.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. DISCUSS SIPES PARK EQUIPMENT

Amerman stated at the beginning of July 2021, the Osseo Lions made a \$2,000 donation towards replacing aging playground equipment at Sipe Park. The equipment in the park, as highlighted in the attached picture, have begun to show signs of wear and rust and according to available records is nearing the end of its useful life. The financial cost of playgrounds is highly variable. It depends on the age range of the children expected to use the equipment, the overall size of the park, how much of the park is being replaced, etc. That noted, a common rule of thumb for playground costs is \$1,000 per every child the park can support at one time. In 2018 the City of Maple Grove conducted a metro wide study and has estimated that playground equipment for a neighborhood level park like Sipe Park costs roughly \$50,000. Funding for playground equipment would likely be a combination of city funds, donations, and grants. There are a number of grants available

for outdoor recreation purposes, such as the MN DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant Program, willing to provide matching funds up to 50% of the total cost.

Vickerman thanked staff for providing the group with photos. She explained her kids love playing at this park, but understood the park was aging. She supported the City pursuing funds in order to replace the park equipment at Sipe Park.

Trossen commented on how parks can be a draw for young families and encouraged the Committee to thoughtfully consider this.

Stelmach concurred this park was in need of improvement and could be a draw into the community.

Mueller questioned what the next steps would be. Amerman reported the next steps would be to contact companies that can provide the City with playground equipment quotes and these quotes would then be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Vickerman recommended the equipment be able to grow with the children in the community and not be chosen for young children.

Further discussion ensued regarding the use of the tennis court.

B. UPDATE ON BOERBOOM PARK EXPANSION

Amerman stated at the September 27, 2021, meeting of the Osseo City Council, the Council approved a purchase agreement for the single-family home located at 16 5th Street NE. The city will pay the owner \$154,000, and the closing documents are being developed by the City Attorney's office. This home is the last of the four residences sharing a block with Boerboom Veterans Park to remain outside of the City's control. The city has already decided to vacate and begin the process of demolishing 17 4th Street NE, but the other two residences will continue to be leased in the short term. The scope of work of a Minnesota Brownfields grant approved earlier this spring to pay for asbestos and environmental site assessments at 17 4th Street NE, 25 4th Street NE, and 417 1st Avenue NE is currently being modified to allow for its use to fund the same tests at the newly purchased residence.

10. STAFF & COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Stelmach welcomed Dori Trossen and Kara Wolf to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Bonn explained she had the best summer of her whole life. She commented she appreciated all of the Music and Movie in the Park, along with the Yellow Tree Theater events.

Amerman stated Yellow Tree hopes to hold similar events in 2022 and staff was very excited to have them back.

Trossen thanked the committee members for the warm welcome.

Wolf explained she was excited to see Yellow Tree coming back next summer. She supported the City expanding its park and outdoor events because these events drew people into the community.

Amerman reported the Lions Halloween event would be held on Saturday, October 23, Small Business Saturday would be held on Saturday, November 27, Minidazzle would be held on Friday, December 3 and lunch with Santa would be held on Saturday, December 4.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made Vickerman, seconded by Bonn, to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m. The motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Guenther
Minute Maker Secretarial