

OSSEO PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
October 2, 2018

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 2, 2018.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Committee members Dee Bonn, Kerstin Schulz, Larry Stelmach, Sloan Wallgren (arrived at 6:16 pm), Alden Webster, and Anne Zelenak.

Absent: Brittney Quant

Others present: Harold E. Johnson and City Planner Nancy Abts

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Stelmach, seconded by Bonn, to approve the meeting's agenda. The motion passed 5-0.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by Bonn, seconded by Zelenak, to approve the April 2, 2018, meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed 5-0.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kerstin advised the public that this is the time for public comments. Concerned citizen Harold E. Johnson addressed the Committee regarding the Streetscape Management Committee. He provided information on the history of the Central Avenue streetscape, as well as landscape management activities. He encouraged the Committee to consider establishing a volunteer program to assist with landscape maintenance. He noted that he had spent many hours preparing the park before Memorial Day this spring.

6. SPECIAL BUSINESS

There was no special business.

7. BUDGET UPDATE

Nancy updated the committee on transactions within the Youth Recreation account and the Music and Movies in the Park fund. The committee asked for a clearer representation of the balance / net of the accounts, and Nancy agreed to consult with the City Accountant and send follow-up information to the group.

The Committee also reviewed the preliminary recreation budget items for 2019.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. SUMMER MUSIC AND MOVIES IN THE PARK REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Nancy presented information on the 2018 Music and Movies in the Park events. After the end of the series, city staff met with the volunteers to discuss their recommendations for the future. The Committee considered suggestions to incorporate Food Trucks into Tuesday night events and agreed this should be explored. They also discussed the possibility of adding ‘presentations’ from local organizations—for example, the World Tae Kwon Do studio—prior to the movies.

Dee, Kerstin, and Web agreed to serve on a subcommittee to plan for the 2019 series. The group prefers to meet after 4 pm.

B. SUMMER YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAMS REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Nancy provided a summary of enrollments in the 2018 youth sports programs. This year included 277 class registrations, which includes approximately 30 percent registering for more than one class. All told, there were just under 200 different kids participating in classes this year. Of those students, over one third are Osseo residents

She summarized results of a survey emailed to parents of summer participants. Comments were generally positive, with some suggestions for improvements and future programming. Most critical comments focused on the Ninja Warrior class, which suffered from lack of available playground equipment to use. It did not meet many parents’ expectations. Almost all respondents expressed interest in an online registration and payment option, something that would save considerable time for City staff.

The Committee discussed the program. There was interest in how an online registration option would work. Larry noted it would be important to consider who would “own” the data resulting from online registrations and suggested staff consider whether the City could provide this option in-house. Sloan remarked that it was unfortunate that programs filled up and people had to be turned away. He suggested that in the future Osseo residents have priority registration.

Larry agreed to be on a subcommittee to discuss the 2019 program.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. STREETScape MAINTENANCE PLAN COMMITTEE & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Nancy informed the Committee that two Councilmembers would be meeting to help staff develop a plan for the Central Avenue Streetscape. She invited participation from the Parks and Recreation Committee as well.

Dee and Sloan agreed to serve on the committee, if needed.

B. DISCUSS OUTDOOR RINK USE

Nancy referred to the Committee's previous conversations about flooding both a hockey and pleasure rink for winter 2019. She noted the recommendation from staff would be to only flood the hockey rink and work with the rink attendants to "split the rink" to accommodate two user groups when pleasure skaters wanted to use the facilities.

The Committee expressed concern about the safety of splitting the rink and possible loose pucks affecting pleasure skaters. Members were not confident in the Rink Attendants' ability to police rink users' behavior. Given the number of young families in town, Sloan recommended providing two facilities.

To save money, the Committee suggested decreasing the size of the pleasure rink, if possible.

A motion was made by Stelmach, seconded by Webster, to recommend the City flood two rinks during the winter of 2018-2019. The motion passed 6-0.

C. 2019 STEP TO IT CHALLENGE PROGRAMMING

Nancy noted that a kick-off walk for the 2017 Step to It Challenge was well-received by the community. She presented a suggestion of providing additional community events during the May event to help bolster engagement and foster community connections. This could include a kick-off and/or wrap-up walk, a bicycle ride with the Osseo Police Department, or a program sampler with RevSports.

Larry liked that calendar included pre-calculated "steps". Dee suggested starting programming on Tuesday nights. Sloan suggested bringing local 'celebrities' in to participate in events, a la "Walk with a Doc" events hosted in other places.

10. UPCOMING EVENTS

The Committee reviewed upcoming events, including the Lions Halloween Event, Minidazzle, holiday light hanging, and Small Business Saturday. The next Committee meeting will be December 4.

11. STAFF & COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Web encouraged everyone to vote.

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made Bonn, seconded by Zelenak, to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m. The motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy S. Abts
City Planner