

**OSSEO PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
December 7, 2021**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Osseo Parks & Recreation Committee meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Ashlee Mueller at 6:08 p.m., Tuesday, December 7, 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this meeting was held virtually.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None

Others present: Community Management Coordinator Joe Amerman

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Vickerman, seconded by Bonn, to approve the meeting's agenda. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 7-0.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by Bonn, seconded by Vickerman, to approve the October 5, 2021, meeting minutes as presented. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 7-0.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

6. SPECIAL BUSINESS

There was no special business.

7. BUDGET UPDATE

A. PROPOSED 2022 BUDGET FOR RECREATION

Amerman reviewed the proposed 2022 budget for Parks and Recreation with the committee. He noted in 2021 the budget was reduced due to the ongoing pandemic. He reported in 2022 the numbers are returning to their normal levels.

Stelmach stated he was pleased with how well the youth sports programming was going because it was growing and now funding itself.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. DISCUSS PROPOSED 2022 MUSIC AND MOVIES IN THE PARK EVENTS

Amerman stated as in every year, the Music and Movies in the Park takes place on Tuesday nights between the end of the school year and the beginning of the next school year. As in 2021, there are 12 Tuesdays that occur during that time frame. Based on the 2021 schedule, the final Tuesday has been reserved as a rain date. With August 2 set aside as Night to Unite in 2022, there are a total of 10 Tuesdays to plan for. We have also been notified that Ed Columbus is willing to return for another summer as host, though he will not be available the week of July 4 (performance night July 5). He also referenced that in past years the week of July 4 was left off the schedule as a break, and staff has confirmed that in 2012-2019 this was the case. Staff is asking that the Committee discuss the schedule and the number of performance nights desired and direct staff accordingly.

Amerman reported staff has been in contact with several of the bands that performed last year and have tentatively confirmed dates for three of them. These include The Teddy Bear Band on June 14, the Classic Big Band on June 28, and Led Penny on July 12. Staff has also been in contact with the Dirty Shorts Brass Band, the Spark School, Snake Discovery, and the Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota. All of whom have expressed in interest in returning though no dates have been selected or reserved pending Committee approval. Based on the feedback from the Parks and Recreation Committee, staff will either continue reaching out to past performers or will build out the schedule with others. Staff is asking that the Parks and Recreation Committee discuss performers, make comments, and direct staff accordingly.

Amerman explained Swank Motion Pictures has informed the city that prices will remain what they were for 2021. They have given us an estimate of \$375-\$450 per title, though past experience suggests the cost will more often be in the neighborhood of \$450, rather than \$375. In 2021 the Parks and Recreation Committee chose to screen a movie every week of the summer, if that is chosen again this year the city can expect to spend roughly \$4,500 on movies. Once the schedule is confirmed, staff will receive a list of available movies from Swank Motion Pictures. Staff is asking the Parks and Recreation Committee to discuss the number of movie screenings desired for 2022 and direct staff accordingly.

Amerman indicated staff will once again solicit food trucks to appear at our Tuesday night programming. Feedback from residents regarding food trucks has been very positive. Staff will begin by reaching out directly to the food trucks recommended by the Parks and Recreation Committee, and then by reaching out to food trucks through the Minnesota Food Truck Association roster of trucks. The Parks & Recreation Committee should review and comment on Food Trucks for 2021.

Stelmach stated he supported the idea of getting more local businesses involved in the Music and Movies in the Park events. He recommended the Committee make a decision about the 2022 calendar by February in order to allow staff to begin locking down the food truck vendors that would be attending next years events. He stated he liked the schedule the City had in 2021.

Schulz suggested staff speak with the local restaurants to see if they would be interested in setting up a tent in the park.

Mueller agreed with this suggestion and proposed Omni be approached to provide beverages at these events. She recommended that Red Savoy be approached to provide pizza by the slice at the park.

Vickerman supported these suggestions as well. She indicated she liked having both music and movies on the same night because it drew all kinds of people to the events. She reported the food was a bonus. She thanked Ed for his dedicated service to the community and noted she supported keeping the week of July 4th off the schedule.

Bonn agreed that the 4th of July week should not be scheduled for events.

Wolf recommended the 4th of July week be kept off the schedule as well. She suggested the local restaurants consider having special deals on Tuesday and Thursday nights in order to drive traffic to these restaurants. She supported staff speaking with the local restaurants prior to pursuing food trucks for these nights. She asked if the City has allowed businesses to sponsor the music or movies in the park events. She indicated a banner could be posted to promote this business on the night they are the sponsor.

Stelmach stated he liked this idea a lot. He understood there were groups that were interested in sponsoring a night. He noted the price for the banners are relatively inexpensive.

Schulz commented businesses in Osseo do receive a letter each year asking if they want to sponsor a night or make a donation to the event. She agreed it would be great to get all of the businesses involved along with the local restaurants.

Trossen stated it was a good idea to get the local businesses involved, especially the new businesses.

Vickerman recommended staff reach out to Red Savoy to encourage them to offer a slice of pizza and a soda for one of the events.

Schulz asked what direction staff was seeking at this time. Amerman requested a subcommittee be formed to assist with further planning the music and movies in the parks events for 2022.

Bonn, Schulz and Wolf volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

B. DISCUSS 2022 OSSEO YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAMMING

Amerman stated Osseo has partnered with Revolutionary Sports since 2017 to provide youth sports programming during the summers. Though the COVID-19 virus cancelled what was planned for 2020, the summer of 2021 saw record numbers of participants in the program. Our programming consisted of 3 5-week sessions, beginning in May and ending in August. These took place at Sipe Park and were open to both residents and non-residents, though for differing registration costs. John Richardson, Director of RevSports, is currently working up a tentative 2022 schedule based on last year's schedule, which will be subject to approval by the Parks and Recreation Committee and City Council. This schedule will likely include the kind of COVID safety measures which were implemented last year,

including increased buffer times between classes, and caps on the number of participants per program.

Stelmach believed this program was doing really well and he did not support a major increase in prices, but rather could support incremental increases that aligned with RevSports increases.

Mueller stated she would be curious to see if registrations were as high in 2022 as they were in 2021. She indicated she could support a small price increase. She asked what the resident to non-resident breakdown was for the sports programming participants. Amerman reported close to 70% of the participants were non-resident.

Trossen commented she believed it was reasonable to raise the rates depending on what RevSports charged, but she also supported the City keeping the rates affordable for families. She anticipated this was a draw for many young families who have kids that want to try new sports.

Wolf agreed rates should increase as RevSports increases their prices. She questioned if the Committee had considered raising the rates for non-residents compared to residents. She supported the group having a more in depth conversation regarding the rate structure for this program.

Schulz agreed it would be useful to have this conversation, especially given the fact RevSports would be increasing their rates.

Vickerman commented she would be interested in looking at this as well. She explained it was inevitable that RevSports would eventually be raising their rates. It was her hope that a slight increase would not impact families too much.

Wolf stated she would like to see the City pursuing arts programming, especially given the fact Osseo has a professional theater company and dance studio in the community. She would like to see what type of arts programming could be built with Yellow Tree and other partners.

Schulz indicated this was a great idea. She noted the City previously offered arts and crafts programming, but noted this did not take off as well as the sports programming.

Stelmach commented on the previous arts programming and suggested the City lean on the people that provide these services. He noted he would be willing to collaborate with Wolf on this in order to create a plan for the City.

The Commission believed this was a great idea and looked forward to hearing back from Vickerman, Wolf and Stelmach in February regarding a potential arts program.

C. DISCUSS YELLOW TREE 2022 SUMMER SERIES

Amerman stated in 2021 the city worked with Yellow Tree Theater to host a series of six musical events at Boerboom Park. At three of these events Omni Brewing was also present, with Council approval, to service alcohol. In 2022, Yellow Tree is looking to return with another six nights. These would take place on Thursday nights, every two weeks between

June 16 and August 25. They will be responsible for arranging performers and vendors, with the city coordinate to ensure the appropriate permits are applied for. This will eventually have to go before Osseo City Council for formal approval. In a change from last year, Yellow Tree will likely be looking to have Omni at all 6 nights. Normally the Minnesota Department of Public Safety would not allow so many temporary liquor licenses to be pulled for events in that time frame. As a general rule only one permit can be approved within a 30-day period. However, there is a specific exemption for non-profits or charitable organizations operating in municipalities with less than 5,000 people.

Stelmach stated he absolutely loved the fact that Yellow Tree would be returning. He appreciated the fact that Omni would be able to be involved at all of the events this year. He suggested these events be advertised on the City billboard.

Vickerman agreed noting she appreciated how the Yellow Tree ran their own events and how they had a different look and feel from the movies and music in the park.

Trossen stated she also supported the Yellow Tree events going forward in 2022.

Wolf agreed.

Schulz supported the Yellow Tree events and hoped that the Council would support food trucks coming in for these events given the fact the City would be reaching out to local restaurants to participate in the music and movies in the park events.

D. DISCUSS PROPOSED 2022 PARKS AND RECREATION MEETING SCHEDULE

Amerman stated for 2022, Staff is proposing a similar schedule to 2021, in which the Parks and Recreation Committee meets five times throughout the year. These will take place at 6:00 pm on the first Tuesdays of February, April, June, October, and December, those dates being:

- February 1
- April 5
- June 7
- October 4
- December 6

A motion was made Mueller, seconded by Trossen, to approve the proposed 2022 meeting schedule. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 7-0.

9. STAFF & COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Amerman reported City Hall would be closed on December 23, 24, 30 and 31 for the holidays.

Amerman encouraged the members whose terms were expiring to submit a letter of interest prior to the end of the year.

Vickerman thanked the City for a great Minidazzle event.

Mueller reported Steeple Pointe was accepting gifts for their residents now through December 24.

Stelmach explained he enjoyed Minidazzle and being able to visit the new coffee shop after that event. He stated he appreciated the great family friendly, community building events the City hosted on an annual basis.

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

Schulz thanked everyone who participated in the Small Business Saturday event and encouraged residents to get downtown again for the Christmas on Central event on December 18.

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made Mueller, seconded by Bonn, to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Guenther
Minute Maker Secretarial