

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR THE
MEETING OF

March 10, 2010

Present: Jim Austin, Rhonda Buck, Bob Cook, Megan Harley, Eric Hartfield, Jerry Hopkins, Dan Lavengood, Dave Skinner, Doug Wustman

Absent: Rod Van Oeveren

Staff Present: Dave Coates, Nancy Parent, Eric Tomkins

City Council Liaison: Rich Pastoor

Call to order of the Parks and Recreation Commission – Chairman Lavengood called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda – Motion was made by Megan Harley, seconded by Rhonda Buck to approve the agenda. Carried.

Approval of the Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes of the February 10, 2010 Meeting - Motion was made by Megan Harley, seconded by Jerry Hopkins to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2010 meeting. Carried.

Public Comment on Agenda Item (limit to 3 minutes) – None.

TEAM21 Unemployment – Eric explained the reduction in staff because of reduction in sites and the employees filing unemployment. This is a concern to us as we are funded by a grant. The initial response we received is that the grant cannot pay the unemployment. Wyoming Public Schools is the fiduciary and is working through the issue. We wanted to inform the Commission of this situation.

Draft Scholarship Policy – Kenny Westrate, Recreation Programmer, gave an update on the scholarship policy. We have been working on it for about four months. We have a partnership with the Greater Wyoming Community Resource Alliance. Kenny reviewed the handout.

Summer Special Events

Maranda Park Party – This event will be held July 1, 2010 at Lamar Park. Event starts with lunch from 11:30 am-12:00 noon followed by activities until 2:00 pm. We expect approximately 4,000 people. We are working on a timeline with police, fire and traffic personnel. This is a great opportunity to promote our city.

St. Joseph the Worker Church – They held this event last year and it went well. They have an estimated attendance of 8,000 people. This will be held the second weekend in August.

Others

Relay for life is the second weekend in May at Lamar Park.

The Wyoming Jaycee scavenger hunt is coming up also at Lamar.

The Grand Rapids Hearing Charity Walk in October is held at Frog Hollow.

Question was raised if the Latino festival will be held this year. We have not been contacted regarding this.

Wyoming E-Newsletter – We started our new E-Newsletter in January. We will put all Commissioners on the list to receive this. The mailing list is currently about 2,500. We have a 25-28% open rate, which is above average. The number one hit is the department brochure. Second is the senior center blog. With every newsletter we get five additional fans to our Facebook page. The newsletter comes out at 8:00 am on the first of every month.

Capital Projects Update

Oriole Park Redevelopment – Wolverine Building was awarded the bid for the project. We have a preconstruction meeting on March 17. We are hoping to start construction April 1. We are not 100% sure we will have the splashpad open this season, but we are working toward that. We are developing a timeline for the project.

Wyoming Senior Center Sign – The bids were opened a week ago. We will be replacing the temporary portable sign. The new sign will be similar to Rogers or Wyoming Park High School signs. We are currently going through the process of talking to the low bidder to make sure they can meet the specifications. We plan to bring this before the City Council in April with completion of the project in June.

Housekeeping/Informational Items – We are having a carnival again this year on the Studio 28 property April 16-25. The proceeds will benefit the Wyoming Dog Park and the Greater Wyoming Community Resource Alliance.

Over 210 key fobs have been issued for the Wyoming Dog Park. We have had no maintenance problems at this time.

Commissioner Concerns and Suggestions – Doug Wustman stopped at Frog Hollow the other day and noticed that there is no signage directing people to the park. He suggested that we work with the YMCA while they are in construction to add a sign for Frog Hollow.

Jim Austin liked the idea of the Maranda Park Party.

Public Comment in General (Limit to 3 minutes) – None.

Motion to Adjourn the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting – Motion to adjourn was made by Rhonda Buck, seconded by Megan Harley. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Recorded by _____
Nancy Parent
Recording Secretary