



The MISSION of the City of Yankton is to provide exemplary experiences, services & spaces that create opportunities for everyone to learn, engage, and thrive.

MINUTES
YANKTON PARK ADVISORY BOARD
Monday, March 21, 2022, 5:30PM, in the Community Room
CMTEA Building, 1200 W. 21st Street

I. ROUTINE BUSINESS

Roll Call:

Present: Nick Severson, Dan Prendable, Elizabeth Healy, and Commissioner Bridget Bensen.

Absent: Tom Bixler, Jason Tellus, and Jeannine Economy.

Also present Director of Parks and Recreation Todd Larson, and Parks Secretary Chasity McHenry.

Public Appearances: None.

Minutes: November 15, 2021 minutes approved. Healy motioned. Prendable second. Motion passed 3-0.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2022 Capital projects update.

Due to some private donations we are working on some projects from the Master Plan for Westside Park. The City did receive approval for the Land, Water, and Conservation Fund Grant for the Westside Park play equipment. The City has removed the play structure from Westside Park. New play equipment will be installed in 2022. The Yankton Territorial Museum is working to have buildings removed in the spring of 2022. Advertisement for bids for some of the improvements at Westside Park started this past week. This project includes: removal of the old pedestrian bridge along with the footings at each end and installation of a prefabricated bridge with bollard lighting at both ends of the new bridge approaches; improved landscape wall on the island; adding some additional black dirt on the island to improve the grass turf; reclaiming the rip-rap natural stone around the perimeter of the pond by pulling it up to the edge of the pond and then also adding to the stone to make a more aesthetically pleasing shoreline; creating a small seating plaza on the west side of the shelter house which will abut the pond; muck excavation of the pond to make it deeper and then installation of a new clay liner; improvements to the overflow structure; and three areas of aquatics plantings along the pond shoreline to help with water quality of the pond. We are also working with an Eagle Scout Project and some private donations to make some improvements to the skate park at Westside.

A Friends of Sertoma Park group has been formed which includes members from The Yankton Baseball Association, Yankton Sertoma Club, The Yankton Girls Softball Association, Mount Marty University Softball, and Men's Slow-Pitch Softball Association. This group is working on fund-raisers to help fund improvements at the current fields at Sertoma Park along with a more long-term goal of building more baseball and softball fields at a new complex. Girls' softball has been added as a sanctioned sport for the high school



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starting in 2022 and the South Dakota High School Athletic Association will have the season in the spring. The preliminary plan would be to utilize fields at Sertoma Park until the SAC facility can be updated so the fields are regulation for high school softball. Mount Marty University Softball and High School will have to coordinate to allow for practices and games by both teams at the two north fields at Sertoma Park.

The Parks Department will work with the Friends of Sertoma Park group to re-grade the four south fields at Sertoma Park this spring. The goal is to have this completed by the end of April.

In 2022, there will be more asphalt trail replaced with concrete trail in Fantle Memorial Park.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. The Department is currently advertising for its parks ground maintenance position. There was a retirement at the end of 2021 which created this opening. Also, one department employee has been promoted to HR and Employee Engagement Director while a second department employee has resigned their position to pursue another career opportunity. So, there will be some advertising in the future for positions in the department as job descriptions and pay scales are updated.
- B. Budgeting for 2023 and beyond. Working with the pickle ball group to apply for some grants and examining the highest and best use of the spaces at Westside Park to create dedicated pickle ball courts. There are a few users of the community dog park that are requesting some improvements at the facility including creating a walking path (either concrete or crushed concrete) around the perimeter inside the fence. With the dry conditions, there are now worn paths along with some significant ruts around the perimeter as quite a few of the users utilize the area to walk while their dogs are at the park. We will also explore the possibility of adding some outdoor fitness equipment to Westside Park as we work through the budgeting process in the years to come. This was a community input idea when we went through the master planning process for the park in 2019.
- C. General Discussion.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Commission information Memorandums (4 CIM attachments).
- B. Next Meeting: Monday, May 16, 2022.

V. ADJOURN

Healy motioned, Severson second. Motion carried 3-0.