



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, May 15, 2023, 5:30PM, in the Community Room**  
**CMTEA Building, 1200 W. 21<sup>st</sup> Street**

**I. ROUTINE BUSINESS**

Roll Call:

Present: Nick Severson, Elizabeth Healy, Jason Tellus and Jeannine Economy.

Absent: Dan Prendable, Tom Bixler, and Commissioner Bridget Benson.

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

Public Appearances: Nicholas Ambroson.

Proposed Eagle Scout Project for some Yankton Parks. Would like to place some free libraries in August Park, Fox Run Park, and Ridgeway Park. Libraries would be attached to picnic shelters. The project would utilize pre-fabricated kits for the libraries. It was suggested he utilize United Way and their collection of books. Utilize the Yankton Community Library Friends group for books also. Nicholas may utilize a Go Fund Me to raise some funding for this project. He is not asking the City for any funding for this project. Liz Healy made a motion to support the project and recommend to the City Commission for approval. Jason Tellus second. Motion passed 4-0.

Minutes: November 21, 2022 minutes approved. Tellus motioned. Economy second. Motion passed 4-0.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

A. 2022 Capital projects update.

New play equipment has been installed in Westside Park and now the fall material surfacing will be put in place the week of May 29.

The Yankton Territorial Museum will be moving the caboos and remaining buildings in the coming months. The area will be seeded in with grass.

The Westside improvements project has some items completed and others ongoing. The meditative garden, sun dial, and labyrinth project has been started with work ongoing.

The Marne Creek trail project to repair flood damage from 2019 and to replace sections of the trail that were damaged in 2019, through FEMA, started this spring and is on-going.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**



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- A. The Parks Department had a new ground maintenance employee start on Monday, May 15. This position was available with the retirement of Brian Frick in April. The Parks Staff is looking forward to being full-staffed again now.

The Parks Department has a different plan for weekend coverage in 2023. There is still an on-call employee that will be working on Saturday and Sunday mornings, but now we have scheduled a second full-time parks employee to also work those morning hours alongside the on-call employee. The Department use to rely on state in-mates and seasonal workers to be the second worker on the weekends but that system had become unreliable.

- B. Luke Youmans and Sonya Wattier are the department's aquatics team and they are now working on getting The Huether Family Aquatics Center prepared for the 2023 season. The facility is scheduled to open Saturday, May 27. We feel grateful as there has been a sufficient number of applicants for lifeguarding and all the positions we need to fill during the summer months.

There are a couple of operational changes that are being implemented for the summer of 2023. An evening day pass rate starting at 5:00pm that is \$6 versus the all-day pass rate of \$11. This is an effort to help with the feedback we have heard about the facility not being affordable for all in the community. Evenings are typically less attended than other hours in the day so this is a marketing effort to try and increase evening attendance. Also, on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday evenings, after the last scheduled break at 5:50 – 6:00pm, the lazy river will be reserved for water walking for adults and youth. We've had a lot of request to have water walking in the evenings over the past two summers. The facility will also be hosting a few "family nights" throughout the 2023 season. Family nights will be \$4 per person in a family.

- C. A citizen task force for the Summit Activities Center operations brought some recommendations to the City Commission. An item for the PAB is to find out how many board members are SAC members, or GL members and utilize the SAC facility? Liz Healy is an SAC member, Dan Prendable is an SAC member, Jeannine Economy has both the SAC membership and a GL membership, Nick Severson is a GL member, and Jason Tellus is a GL member.

The SAC has added quite a few fitness classes through winter. Hours of operations were adjusted for the winter to offer more hours on the weekends. There will be changes to weekend hours in the summer for 2023 also. The facility will be doing marketing through the radio stations in town by trading out season passes or facility annual memberships versus paying cash.

Out of this task force discussion, has come two new marketing initiatives for both the SAC and The Huether Family Aquatic Center. New water utility sign-ups at City Hall will receive a free day pass for both facilities. The goal is to have people come use the facilities and see what value they have for patrons. The second initiative is to have day passes for both facilities available for check-out at the Community Library. This is an outreach program to help those who may not have the financial means to purchase season passes or even day passes.



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- D. There is also a Special Events Task Force that has been meeting and working through the handbook and application the City currently utilizes. The documents are being updated but the task force is also looking at fees and how they should be utilized as the City works with private groups that are administering the special events.
- E. A citizens committee is being formed to help plan for the Meridian Bridge's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2024. It will have its first meeting in June of 2023. The birthday would occur in October of 2024.
- F. 2023 Capital Projects update.  
ABI Force ball-field groomer has been added to our equipment fleet. The Department will utilize this piece of equipment in the fall to do laser guided leveling of the dirt infields on the softball and baseball fields.  
The SAC and Fantle Memorial Park tennis courts will be resurfaced this summer.  
The Department is working with engineers to get a topographical map of the Riverside Softball field. The map will be utilized to write specifications for receiving bids on an infield artificial turf project. This project, depending on the affordability of the bids, would be funded by the City and both Yankton Youth Softball and Mount Marty University would participate with funding also.

Sertoma Park projects. The concession stand has a new metal roof. The comfort station on the north complex has a new metal roof. The concession stand has new cabinets, counters, and hardware. A new drink cooler was installed in the concession stand. Electrical upgrades and outlets were completed in the north comfort station storage area to help accommodate the concessions sales that take place utilizing that space. The Yankton Youth Softball group is building a new open-air shelter on the south complex and will be including a secured storage area connected to it. Both MMU softball and YSD softball utilized the north fields in the spring. Youth baseball, youth softball. And adult softball will utilize the park fields throughout the summer season.

Cemetery shop building has a new metal roof, gutters, and downspouts.

When time allows, the overhead part of the open-air structure at Rotary Park will be taken down. It has deteriorated to the point of needing to be removed.

#### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

- A. General discussion items.
- Commission information Memorandums (4 CIM attachments).
  - Other completed work projects for the department are noted in the CIMs.
  - Next Meeting: Monday, July 17, 2023.

#### **V. ADJOURN**

Severson motioned, Tellus second. Motion carried 4-0.