



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, November 20, 2023, 5:30PM, in the Community Room**  
**CMTEA Building, 1200 W. 21<sup>st</sup> Street**

**I. ROUTINE BUSINESS**

Roll Call:

Present: Jason Tellus, Brian Bertsch, Nick Severson, Elizabeth Healy, and City Commissioner Brian Hunhoff.

Absent: Jeannine Economy-List, and Tom Bixler.

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

Public Appearances: None.

Minutes: September 18, 2023 minutes approved. Tellus motioned. Bertsch second. Motion passed 4-0.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

A. 2023 Capital projects update.

The Westside Park pond project has no update at this time.

The pickle ball court conversion project received \$10,000 from Avera. We are still waiting on the finalization of a LWCF grant of \$34,000. The local pickle ball group has donated some funds for this project also. I've been informed grant finalization and signing paperwork will happen in spring of 2024.

The parks Department is utilizing the new Field Leveling/Groomer that was purchased in the spring. They have completed the northwest field and the Northeast field in the south Sertoma Park complex.

B. A citizen's task force committee has been meeting to plan for the Meridian Bridge's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2024. The official birthday would be October 12, 2024. The group is discussing having educational events and entertainment events throughout 2024.

The first event on the schedule is the January Kick-Off Reception on Friday night, January 26, from 6:00 to 8:30pm at Ben's Brew Station.

Website- hosted by Yankton Thrive – [www.visitanktonsd.com/meridian-bridge-centennial/](http://www.visitanktonsd.com/meridian-bridge-centennial/)

Facebook page- [www.facebook.com/Meridian.Centennial](https://www.facebook.com/Meridian.Centennial)

Instagram page- @meridianbridgecentennial



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- C. SAC mission statement: Provide everyone with an affordable, indoor, family-friendly fitness and recreation facility. The SAC financials through October 31 are attached. Reminder, the SAC fees will be increased again on January 1, 2024.

Reminder, the SAC facility user data can be found in the Commission Information Memorandums (CIM) that are presented to the City Commission, every two weeks, as a part of their Commission Meeting packet and they are also a part of the PAB agenda packets. There is new equipment upstairs and we're already planning on new equipment in 2024. Total memberships in November were at 863 which is two higher than the previous high back in February.

The SAC will work with the Library to do some marketing prior to the Christmas School Break to make people aware of SAC day passes being available for check-out at the library.

The board discussed pickle ball facilities in town and the availability to play in the mornings, afternoons and especially the evenings. City Hall gym is available Monday – Friday during normal business hours (8:00am to 5:00pm) for pickle ball play. The City Hall gym can be rented on nights and weekends for pickle ball play. The SAC auxiliary gym allows for pickle ball play during the mornings. The SAC would allow for evening play if the parties rented the court space where the pickle ball courts are located. The pickle ball nets do not stay in the gym and are brought in and moved back out after the morning hours. The NFAA indoor archery facility has a pickle ball court and allows for paid memberships to have access to that court morning, afternoons and evenings.

- D. The Huether Family Aquatics Center 2023 financials were provided (not finalized).
- E. The Eagle Scout project to build a three-sided wind-break area at the entrance of the Sertoma Park Ice Rink is underway. They will pour cement on Wednesday.

### III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Christmas lighting at Riverside Park by the Parks Department with donated items from the Optimists Club. The club purchased some displays that will be placed by the amphitheater. The City of Yankton purchased a few more items also. The Optimists still plan to do the Santa Claus house in the Capitol on the weekends of December 2 & 3 and December 9 & 10. The Optimists have a vision of even more lighting in Riverside Park in the years to come and this is an on-going effort to realize that long-term vision.
- B. The holiday festival of lights and parade will take place on Thursday, November 30. Luke Youmans has been working with downtown businesses for parade activities, from 4:00pm to 5:30pm at the Meridian Venue that will entertain families prior to the parade at 6:00pm. The lighting of the Christmas Tree by the Meridian Bridge will take place at 7:00pm and then fireworks will be shot from the top level of the Meridian Bridge. The festival website can be found at: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/b2f29939eef14dd015ed4770ea630aa/>
- C. The Lawn and event spaces along the river master planning process is being planned for January through May of 2024. A similar process to what was done with the Westside Park master planning process will be used. Public meetings to examine current areas and ideas for what the public may want to see in Riverside Park and The Lawn in the future.



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

##### **A. General discussion items.**

- Commission information Memorandums (4 CIMs). The items were sent out after the meeting as they were not attached to the agenda packet.
  - Other completed work projects for the department are noted in the CIMs.
- Next Meeting: **Tuesday, January 16, 2024.**

#### **V. ADJOURN**

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