

July 11, 2022

The regular meeting of the Park and Recreation Board of the City of Seward, Nebraska, was held on Monday, July 11th, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 142 N 7th Street. Members present: Randy Chapp, Brett Wobken, Andrea Baack, Jim Placke, Ken Schmieding, and Lacey Koch. Others in attendance: City Council Assistant Recreation Director Adam Bode and Bob Core. Absent: Kelly Limback, Jon Burhoop.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by posting in the following places: City Hall, County Courthouse, Seward Memorial Library, and Municipal Building. The availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice of the meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public. A copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted at this location for public inspection.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Randy Chapp.

1. CONSENT AGENDA (Considered routine and will be enacted by one motion unless separate discussion is requested.)

a. Motion by Placke, seconded by Koch that the minutes of April 4th, 2022 meeting be approved.

Aye: Chapp, Placke, Schmieding, Baack, Koch, and Wobken

Nay: None

Absent: Limback, Burhoop

2. Update on the parks and fields from the storm.

Dan gave an overall report of the golf course that was mainly from the winter. The winter kill was the worst turf loss in over 30+ years. Will seed and continue with overall maintenance this fall to keep things rolling ahead. Hail did cut up the greens but should come out of it. Lost one small building

Hailstorms overall impacted almost all buildings and a full report will be given later as adjusters were not complete. There were at least 17 windshields and at least 69 roofs/sheds needing repairs. More to come.

3. Special Olympics presentation of City of Seward taking over.

Donna Eiting and Louise Warnsholz thanked the board for allowing their athletes to use the Cattle Building for their Bocce Ball.

Additionally, made the direct ask for the City Park and Rec take over the overall Special Olympics program. They would stay and help and guide whoever is leading the program on how to run things or how things were done but really want to make sure it is taken care of and in the right hands. Special Olympics events currently do Basketball, Bowling, Softball, Bouche Ball and Track. Concordia still wants to help with what they are currently assisting with so that students work to gain valuable experience. Essentially, it would be roughly 400+ hours to add to the Park and Rec load.

Typically scheduled:

October – November is Bowling

January – April is Bowling

January – March is Basketball

March – May is Track

May – August is Bouche Ball

May – August is Softball

Equipment, uniforms, and all paperwork would be transitioned, and neither will disappear quickly as both have their sons that are highly involved but need help to keep it going as they have been doing this work for over 20 years.

4. Moving west field to 200ft fence – Discussion.

Shawn was not able to be in attendance. There was much discussion on this topic overall. Per Adam and Bob, their point of view, is no benefit to make this move. The City usage did not appear to be impacted because there were roughly 24 games played with 8–11-year-old athletes. There is potential with this move of the that it could impact 1 tournament.

There were still many questions around this request. Koch and Baack requested that the board consider this update to the field and not wait. They discussed the fear of waiting and then funds going away, similar to the desire to have lights at the 4 plex; however, these funds are donated funds and not a cost to the City. By allowing the fence to move in, it would establish a true softball field where all girls /women would be able to call this field their home field and feel a sense of value and equality. It is tough because the City owns the fields, surrounding high schools have their own fields.

There has to be a balance that is needed because the City uses the indoor high school gymnasiums for many activities too. Placke and others noted that with a solid heart that we need to consider Shawn's request as it is deemed very important. Here is what was requested:

Shawn Carr to provide a detailed/finalized plan and here is what is needed:

Needs to be a written document.

What about the foul posts - they too will need to be moved?

Need to know where the entry gate will be and how will this be paved or graveled?

Can we add a contingent that IF in 3-5 years the fence needs to be moved - will this donor and you be able to move it?

It was noted to have this detail or need in a formal plan for park & rec approval.

Thoughts, plans and/or suggestions on what will be done with the old fence?

Timing & dates will also be needed.

Placke made the motion to set up what is needed for Shawn to seek approval and it was seconded by Baack on the above plan.

Aye: Chapp, Placke, Schmeiding, Baack, Koch, and Wobken

Nay: None

Absent: Limback, Burhoop

At 6:30 p.m., motion made by Baack, seconded by Placke to adjourn the meeting.

Aye: Chapp, Placke, Baack, Koch, and Wobken

Nay: None

Absent: Limback, Burhoop

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 3, 2022 and should be held at 5:30 PM at Municipal Building, 142 N 7th Street.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Baack