

Peru Park and Recreation Minutes

March 12, 2024

Board President Steve Michelini called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Attendance: Board Members – Steve Michelini, Dan Eiten, Liz Grzybowski, Jeff Puetz, John Fusinatto, Ray Zborowski, Jill Bernal, Recreation Manager Seth Brannan, Director of Parks, Recreation and Special Events - Adam Thorson

Absent: None

I- Guests: Alderman Andy Moreno, Peru Softball President Tara Backes, Peru Softball Former President Jamey Mertel

II- Previous Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the February 12, 2024 meeting was made by Ray Z and seconded by Dan E.

III- Revenue and Expense Report

The Revenue and Expense Report was presented to the board by Adam T and discussed overage in line items due to construction projects at the park. Along with the Sunset Park sports lighting project that was expensed but is fully reimbursed once the project is completed.

IV- New Business

Communications:

Adam T stated LP baseball's lower-level teams will be practicing and hosting games at Washington Park's Happ Field this spring season.

Seth B stated that summer employment applications can be found online and once submitted online, go directly to Human Resources.

Discuss 2024 City Events:

Adam T stated that the Easter Egg Hunt will be held at Centennial Park on March 23 beginning at 11am for a reserved sensory hour. Children aged 0-5 from 12-12:30 and children aged 6 and up from 12:30-1. Hy-Vee and State Farm sponsored the event and will be in attendance. Anyone willing to help set up the event, please be at the park at 9:30am.

Ray Z stated Touch a Truck will be Saturday, June 15 from 12-3pm at Centennial Park. Adam T stated that Life Flight has been contacted and made aware of the date and time of the event and they will attend if they are not on call.

Adam T stated he would coordinate bounce houses and check to see if Boy Scout or Girl Scouts are available to sell concessions.

Discuss 28th St Park Upgrades:

Adam T stated that he had met with the playground rep from Cunningham Recreation at the park to discuss the budget and layout of the newly proposed project. Adam T is awaiting the plans and will share them with the board at our April meeting.

Discuss Sunset Park diamond Upgrades:

Adam T stated that there are plans for the Fall of 2024 to upgrade the Peru girls' softball field at Sunset Park. The plans include a new backstop, concrete, roofs over the dugouts and new lights. The planned budget for the completed project will be estimated at \$60,000. The new lights were expensed through the parks budget at a cost of \$99,800 and is fully reimbursed by IMEA at the completion of the project in the fall.

Jamey Mertel mentioned he and other members of Peru girls' softball think McKinley Park's softball diamond should be named after Mark and Sue Judy. Steve M and other board members agreed that the Judy family has done a lot for the softball league, and it is well deserved. Adam T mentioned that we will proceed as needed.

Tara Backes mentioned the softball board appreciates the upgrades at Sunset Park softball diamond.

Tara Backes asked if the City would look into batting cages at McKinley Park, roofs over the dugouts at McKinley Park and parking at Sunset Park and McKinley Park. Steve Michelini stated that he would donate and cover the cost of concrete for batting cages at McKinley Park. Adam T stated that he would speak about the batting cage project at the City's upcoming Committee meetings and work to complete the batting cage project for the league at McKinley Park.

Discuss 2024 Little League Opening Ceremony:

Liz G gave an update on the plans for the ceremony which includes teams from all Peru youth baseball, softball, and challenger leagues. The event will take place on Monday, April 29th at 5:30pm at McKinley Park. After the ceremony, there will be scrimmage games.

Adam T questioned the location of the ceremony because of the lack of parking and public safety. Adam T stated and recommended that a neutral location of Veteran's Park at the newly constructed stadium would be the best location moving forward because of the parking and the seating. There could be games hosted at Veteran's Park afterward the ceremony.

Liz G stated the ceremony was at a primary boys baseball location in 2023 and it will be at a primary girls softball location in 2024.

Discuss Splash Pad & Summer Camps:

Seth B stated there are 29 confirmed summer camps and he is working on confirming 6 more dates and times.

Seth B stated there will be 35-37 total summer camps.

Seth B and the board recommended an increase from \$10 to \$20 for non-resident participation. This is to assist in covering more of the costs in the camps.

Signups are online and will be available to the public beginning on May 1.

Adam T stated that the Splash Pad feature has not been received yet, and that he will discuss with Peru's City Attorney to receive it by opening day of the Splash Pad.

Discuss Fiscal Year 2025 Budget:

Adam T stated that he has an upcoming budget meeting with the Finance Director this week and will work to get all of the upcoming projects into the budget.

V Unfinished Business

VII- Public Comment

VII- Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 7:22pm was made by John F and seconded by Ray Z. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

*** Minutes submitted by Adam Thorson