

## **Peru Park and Recreation Minutes**

**June 10, 2025**

Board President Steve M called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

**Attendance:** Board Members – Steve Michelini, Ray Zborowski, Jill Bernal, Douglas Olivero, Scotty Miller, Dan Eiten, Liz Grzybowski, Recreation Manager Seth Brannan, Director of Parks, Recreation and Special Events - Adam Thorson

**Absent:** Board Member – Jeff Puetz, John Fusinato

**I- Guests:** Alderman Andy Moreno, Mayor Ken Kolowski

### **II- Previous Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes from the May 13, 2025 meeting was made by Doug O and seconded by Ray Z.

### **III- Revenue and Expense Report**

Adam T presented the Parks expense report. Adam T stated that although the City is currently in FY26, there are still bills submitted that would go towards FY25 due to work being completed prior to May 1. Adam T stated that FY26 was due to be passed in an upcoming council meeting and explained the projects that were upcoming that are currently in the budget, and the projects that were deferred amounted to roughly \$320,000.

### **IV- New Business**

#### **Communications:**

Steve M asked if the newly installed water fountain at Veteran's Park is turned off during Pistol Shrimp games. Adam T responded and stated that the water fountain is not turned off and will remain on during the summer months.

Ray Z stated that Centennial Park has horseshoe pits that need maintenance and some should remain horseshoes, while the other half could be converted into bags. Adam T responded, saying that the bags project was mentioned to the Ax Church Hope Week group, but they chose to complete work at Veteran's Park and would revisit the idea next year during Hope Week.

Ray Z asked if more little league games would be played in Peru this year, along with upcoming seasons. Adam T responded that with the league merger, there has been a slight decrease in games at Washington Park, which was not what the City anticipated. There was also discussion on how much the City of Peru donates to the Little League organization, and that other surrounding cities do not match what Peru gives, so Peru should revisit that amount for the upcoming season.

Ray Z asked if any drafts have been made for the City Park signs that recent guest Jerry Eich proposed. Adam T responded that he likes the idea of signage and recognizing the Peru Parks but does not like the idea of the proposed placement at the Peru entrances since there are many more departments within the City of Peru that move the City forward as well.

Ray Z stated that electric scooters and electric bikes are all over town and in the parks and asked if there has been any discussion within the City about limiting the use. Adam T and Alderman Andy Moreno responded that there has been much conversation about the increase in the usage of electric scooters and bikes, and that the City Attorney and Police Department are working together to create a solution.

Seth B stated that he has seen the increase in usage around Washington Park with the sidewalks now that they are completed and there are a lot of people gathering at the park.

## **V Unfinished Business**

### **2025 Events:**

Adam T stated that the upcoming Music Under the Oaks is June 13 with Written Warning performing from 6-9pm and Thyme Craft Kitchen serving food.

Adam T stated that July 3 fireworks are confirmed with J&M Displays for \$40,000. All food vendors are confirmed, along with the kids' activities from Event Specialists.

### **Discuss Touch a Truck:**

Adam T stated that Touch a Truck would be held at Centennial Park on Saturday, June 28 from 12-3pm. Ray Z stated that this date was chosen so there would be no conflicts with neighboring community events that weekend. Ray Z and Steve M will have all the vehicles and equipment coordinated. Adam T has reserved the inflatables for the event. Adam T asked the board if they would like to cook hotdogs for the event and give them away, which was agreed on. Adam T stated he would order the food from HyVee.

### **Discuss 2025 Projects:**

Adam T stated that the playground equipment and the standalone exercise equipment that will be installed at Washington Park has been approved by the City Council and ordered with the vendor. The ice rink work is ongoing.

Adam T reported that there is a group working to complete the diamond project at Washington Park's Happ Field. This project will likely begin in the Fall of 2025 once the summer season and school seasons end. The goal is to have this project completed by the spring of 2026. This project includes new dugouts, backstop, storage/announcing booth, and tearing out the current bleacher system to have a complete and more updated field for games and tournaments that take place at the facility throughout the year.

Adam T stated that McKinley Park improvements will likely be pushed back a year due to a 13% budget cut to all City of Peru departments.

**Update Summer Camps and Splash Pad:**

Seth B stated the summer camps began on Monday, June 9, and after two days things went well.

Seth B stated that the Splash Pad has had low attendance numbers so far this season because of the cooler temperatures but expects the facility to get busy as it typically does and as the season progresses.

Seth B stated that the facility does not open unless it is 75 degrees or above.

**Discuss FY26 Budget:**

Adam T reported that the FY26 budget is planned to be approved in an upcoming council meeting. Adam T distributed the planned Parks Department budget and where certain projects and events are placed in the budget.

**VII- Public Comment**

Doug O stated that Baker Lake is heavily utilized and that there appeared to be a field trip taken to the park by a local school in the month of May.

**VII- Adjournment** A motion to adjourn at 7:03pm was made by Ray Z and seconded by Steve M. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

\*\*\* Minutes submitted by Adam Thorson