

## **RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES**

**Friday, September 15, 2023; 8:00 am**

**Depot Boardroom**

In Attendance: Commissioner Aaron Hill, Commissioner Vicki Dawson, Susan Faus, Kevin Boe, Dave Klundt, Isabelle Sinkler, Jeff Heisler, Marcy Brush, Shawn Ludwig, Randi Litchy, Cassie Doll, Stephanie D'Ambrosio, Tatianna Friese, Katelin Madsen, Chad Pfau, Amanda Lamp, Cade Merrigan, Broc Lietz, Dave Bietz, Kali Mork

Susan Faus brought meeting to order at 8:00 am.

Introductions of new staff was held.

### **Update on Programs**

Jeff Heisler, Randi Litchy, Dave Klundt, and Isabelle Sinkler presented.

Jeff reported:

- Adult volleyball program this spring we had over 150 teams. This fall our programming is going well and am excited to use the Fargo Parks Sports Center next year for the program.
- Youth baseball went up a little bit in numbers this year. I do not remember us not losing a day due to rain and we didn't lose a day. The last time that happened was 1988. It was very hot, but games went on.
- Most of our programs reached capacity or were very close.
- The outdoor special art days did very well. Park-It started out strong 230 but as the summer got hotter the numbers declined.
  - Kevin stated there will be additional art classes we will be able offer at the Sports Center when it opens but we will continue to offer art classes throughout the community during the summer because it is important to keep programs in different areas of town.
  - Commissioner Dawson discussed classroom sizes for Art Classes once we move to the Fargo Parks Sports Center. Discussion was held on what changes could take place at the Fargo Parks Sports Center.
- Youth Golf is being turned over to the golf staff for the 2024 season. Registration will still take place with Shawn, Marcy, Bekey and Liana.

Randi reported:

- Youth climbing grew this spring with doubling our numbers. Climbing program is a partnership with the Fargo Climbing.

- Coed Softball went down to two nights but stayed steady.
- Kickball numbers grew this year.
- Adaptive Softball is the only one that needed to be cancelled this summer for two nights due to the heat index.
- Playtown had great staff this year and the numbers grew for second session.

Dave reported:

- Youth Volleyball Program is going well and gives youth the opportunity to play without being in the JO Leagues.
- Parks 3 on 3 basketball numbers are strong. The 5 on 5 numbers have been declining.
- Summer Sports Sampler numbers keep growing.

Isabelle reported:

- We had good numbers for our swim lessons this year.
- New this winter will be indoor lessons at Davies.
- Discussion was held on lifeguard retention (around 70%) and the positive program Fargo Park District has.

### **Update on Events**

Stephanie D'Ambrosio, Tatianna Friese, and Katelin Madsen presented.

Stephanie reported:

- Monsters in the Park was reviewed, and the popularity of this event was discussed and the hiding of the monsters outside of the event date.
- Midwest Kid Fest this year events worked with groups to be very inclusive this year. Events staff worked with a couple of different organizations in town to create sensory kits for those attending that may need something. A sensory area was also set-up so kids could go there if a break was needed from the number of people located.
  - Events is actively working on trying to make all their events inclusive.
  - Events is also working on doing a training with staff on sensory issues and being inclusive.
- Learn to Build was new this year. This was Pace's program and he worked with McGough and our carpenters to put this event together and it was extremely popular. The class sold out and with the sponsorship it was only \$10, and the kids got to build a bird house and received a hard hat with the new Fargo Park District logo and McGough logo on the hard hats.
  - Commissioner Dawson commended the photos that were taken at this event. She thought they were wonderful.
  - Stephanie discussed they would like this one to grow and maybe add even adult learn to build classes.
- Kids Triathlon is a great event and continues to grow. They do not advertise that you get a free bike but everyone who attends that does not have a bike receives a bike at the end of the event.

- Island Park Show is growing and this year they tried in something new with the vendors moving in/out themselves.
  - Tatianna reported that the move in/out was a success with the vendors, and it also help to not rely greatly on Parks and other staff to help move vendors in/out.
  - Commissioner Dawson asked about vendor numbers. It was discussed that numbers went down due to 2020 and the events team is working on growing the event back up to the previous numbers. Many vendors retired in 2020. Tatianna reported that this year we had 20 new vendors.
  - Stephanie reviewed the way vendors need to apply for the Island Park Show and that we are a juried show. Some vendors after the show will not be asked back if their product was purchased or made by others. Tatianna will notify the vendors.
- Fall Festival and upcoming winter events were reviewed.
- NDRPA was discussed and Kevin reported that Stephanie will take the lead in the planning for the conference.
- Broadway Square’s past events were reviewed, and it was discussed that Katelin is taking over for Ana with the programming at Broadway Square.
- Senior Games was discussed, and Kevin brought up that we need to monitor this event. For the number of people that participate in this program we need to decide if this is a program we will offer in the future. Stephanie feels that 2024 may be the deciding year because it is a National qualifying year. It is a National Event, and they are very rigid about how things are held and advertised. Events staff has tried to get the state involved but there is no real support from other cities in the state.

**Update on Scheduling**

Marcy Brush presented.

- New this year the campground took reservations online. There were approximately 1200 campers that used the online system which saved a lot of phone calls to the Park District offices. A discussion was held on how the system works and how the customers can pick the right spots.
- Lindenwood had three small new shelters this year that were created with reclaimed wood. They are a nice addition to the park.
- Rentals at Rheault Farm were reviewed, and the numbers are up significantly from last year.
- Fargo Parks Sports Center rentable spaces are being created. Recreation is working closely with Kali to create the space verbiage, confirmations, and contract info along with Birthday Party packages.

### **Update on Concessions**

Chad Pfau, Amanda Lamp, and Cade Merrigan presented.

- Staffing for summer and into Fall and how many are staying on into the fall. The hope is they might only have to hire a few.
- Sales numbers for the summer at all the different sites were reviewed. The positive numbers are due to the full-time staff in concessions making sure the product is there and that things are full. He also discussed the top sales items.
  - Kevin added that the concession stands now also have signs to promote concession stands and patrons will know where to find concessions.
- Fargo Parks Sports Center food options were discussed. The plan is to have two additional concession staff for the complex.
- Staff attended a taste testing at Sysco and toured Cash-Wa Distributing facility. Will look to have a taste testing as Cash-Wa as well. Food items they showed staff are items that taste good and are easy to put together. Chad plans to use both locations for the food offered at the Fargo Parks Sports Center.
- Moving forward into 2024 we will look to change Concessions to Food and Beverage.

### **Update on Summer Aquatics**

Dave Klundt and Isabelle Sinkler presented.

- New this year Birthday Party packages were held at Davies Pool and Southwest Rec Pool and they were very successful and had great feedback.
- Numbers for the season were reviewed.
  - Commissioner Dawson thanked staff for staying open on the weekends. The numbers show when the weather is hot people will come out to the pool.
  - Staff numbers were reviewed. Fargo Park District did not have an issue with filling staff positions this year.
- Reviewed some different sites that Aquatics staff toured this summer in preparation for the new Island Park pool opening since it will be a destination location.
- Isabelle and Dave have put together a draft of an Aquatics Master Plan and have reviewed it with Kevin, Susan and Dave B.

With no further questions, the meeting was adjourned.

Notes submitted by: Marcy Brush, Administrative Specialist