

RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Friday, March 8, 2023; 8:00 am

Depot Boardroom, 701 Main Ave, Fargo, ND

In Attendance: Commissioner Jerry Rostad, Commissioner Vicki Dawson (via phone), Susan Faus, Kevin Boe, Isabelle Sinkler, Jeff Heisler, Marcy Brush, Bekey Hicks, Randi Litchy, Cassie Doll, Stephanie D'Ambrosio, Pace Maier, Tatianna Friese, Katelin Madsen, Chad Pfau, Amanda Lamp, Keltie Wetch, Dave Bietz

Absent: Shawn Ludwig, Dave Klundt, Cade Merrigan

Kevin Boe brought meeting to order at 8:00 am.

Update on Programs

Randi Litchy, Isabelle Sinkler, Jeff Heisler presented.

Fall Adult Programs:

- Adaptive Art Classes – These classes were very well received by the participants.
- Adult Volleyball – This program was completed with little or no issues with 143 teams.
- Adult 3-on-3 Basketball - We had 24 teams play in our fall 3-on-3 leagues. They play on Sundays at Fargo North. That is the maximum we can take in the leagues. These league numbers continue to stay strong.
- Adult Flag Football – Great numbers with the league has been running well.
 - Some discussion was made regarding being self-refereed.
- Adult/Family Archery – Struggle with finding instructors but classes were covered, and participants didn't miss any sessions.

Fall Youth Programs:

- Art classes – Classes were held again at the RDJ building and are usually maxed out with 12 per class.
- Youth table tennis was offer again at the Sport Arena with 15-20 kids participating. We have volunteers teaching the classes.
- We had 2 Awesome Arts this Fall, and both were held at the RDJ gymnasium. On September 30th, we had about 90 participants and on November 11th, we had about 125 participants.
- Sports Sampler – This program is designed for 4- to 6-year-olds. Due to the different social and physical levels of these ages we changed the format. The first group that meets at 5:15 PM was four-year-olds and the 6:15 PM group was five- and six-year-olds. This worked better to split them up. We will continue this format. We had 17 participants in the two groups. Typically, our fall numbers are our smallest due to the timing of registration and children starting school at the same time.
- 3rd and 4th Grade Volleyball League. We had five teams in this league. Each team had eight players. This league had four teams practice at Clara Barton. One team at 5:15, two teams at 6:15 and one team at 7:15. The fifth team practiced at 6:30 at Roosevelt. All teams practice Mondays and Tuesdays and play games on Thursdays. Games were played at Clara Barton.
- Youth Flag Football – This fall, we were fully staffed with referees and had a good season

for the weather. Everything went well for participants and staff.

- Intro to Climbing – 2 Sessions with great numbers September – 17 kids and October – 10 Kids. Working with Fargo Climbing has been very smooth.
- Youth Archery – Struggles with instructors but participants still had good time.

Winter Adult Programs and Activities:

- Adult Volleyball – With no storm days this program went very smoothly again this Winter with a total of 142 teams.
- Winterfest Volleyball – This tournament continues to get enough teams to be held. Saturday was strong with 36 teams. Sunday was a little more of a struggle with only 19 teams. We ended up getting 55 total teams. We had teams from as far away as Dickinson, St. Cloud, and Winnipeg.
- 5-on-5 Basketball – We had 30 teams play in leagues this winter. There were 12 teams on Sundays and 12 teams on Wednesdays at Fargo North. There were 6 teams on Mondays at Courts Plus. These leagues continue to slowly decline like the national and regional trends. Finding officials is also difficult due to the shortage of officials. We offered a call your own foul league and only had one team interested. We will keep offering this league and hopefully generate more interest next winter.
- Adult Hockey - Great season, numbers held steady.
- Drop-In Hockey – Steady numbers each week and the group seems to enjoy this time.
- Broomball - Steady numbers for this league with little change for the participants.
- Drop In Broomball - Numbers are lower this season.
- Table Tennis – This class was full. The new location at Cornerstone has been well received. A lot less wear and tear on equipment.
 - Discussion was made by Commissioner Dawson regarding table tennis during the summer on Fowler Rink.
- Adaptive Art Classes – These classes were very well received by the participants.
- MS Group – Group holding steady and enjoying their time together.

Winter Youth Programs and Activities:

- Swimming Lessons – NEW this winter we were able to add a winter session of swimming lessons. These lessons were held at Davies Indoor Pool for three weeks in January. We had 74 registrants. Lots of positive feedback was given. Lessons were held after the swim team completed practice. Finding enough instructors is a big challenge. We have a small number of instructors, so this worked well to add a session when other lessons are not taking place.
 - Discussion was made by Commissioner Dawson regarding family swimming lessons.
- Art classes – (Artmania/ages 6-8) (Accelerated Artist/ages 9-12) (Mr. And Mrs. Claus/ages 4-10) Most classes were at near or at capacity.
- Sports Sampler – We had 13 registrants for the 4-year-old group at 5:15 PM and 20 registrants for the 5- and 6-year-old group at 6:15 PM. This works well.

- Basketball – Our youth basketball has two groups of kindergarten and 1st graders. One group at 5:15 and the other group at 6:00 PM. There is a group of 2nd graders at 6:45 PM. There were 77 total registrants. All three time slots were full. This program is held at Centennial School gym on Tuesdays and Thursdays for six weeks. We use Centennial since the baskets are adjustable down to eight feet.
- Adaptive Art Classes – We did not have this class during our Winter season. Our instructor was not able to teach it this Winter. We do plan on having it again in the Spring.
- 1889 Classes- This is a new partnership. We had 4 kids in the cooking class, and 4 kids in the art class. The participants loved it. Marketing has done a great job in getting the word out.

Winter Indoor/Outdoor Facility:

- Edgewood Chalet – During the winter we normally have the Edgewood Chalet open weekdays from 4 – 8 PM and weekends from 12 – 8 PM. We typically rent cross country skis, boots, and poles. We also rent snowshoes. All rentals must remain on site. We also offer concessions. There is also a sledding hill along the first fairway with lighting for nighttime sledding. When there is ample snow our operations team grooms ski trails. Classic and Skate Ski trails. Due to a lack of snow, we have not been open a single day this winter. With the Tavern converting to a seasonal facility, we plan to bring back private rentals of the fireplace room in the winter and allow the rentals to have potlucks again.
- Open Swim- We hold this at South Indoor Pool on the weekends from 1pm-5pm. We have had great attendance this year. Courts Plus members can enter for free. We average about 50 patrons/weekend.
 - Kevin had mentioned that if you haven't stopped by the Sports Arena or the Metro Rec you should swing by. The new lighting is a game changer.

Update on Events

Stephanie D'Ambrosio presented.

The Events Team has completed the fall and winter season full of successful events including:

- Fall in Fargo – September 16 & 17, 23 & 24th
 - Over 10,000 plus attendees
 - Sold 2,000 plus pumpkins.
- The Lab- October 28th
 - 400 plus in attendance
- Tree Lighting
 - Over 500 attendees
- Santa Village- November 25 & 26, December 2,3,9,10,15,16,17,21,22
 - Over 13,000 attendees
 - \$2,416 donated to Sanford children's miracle network and Tree of Hope.
 - \$1,521 donated to Make-A-Wish foundation through Macy's Letters to Santa
 - 700 + toys donated to YMCA
 - 1,400 lbs of canned goods donated to Great Plains Food Bank

- Addition of Sensory- Friendly Zone at night
- S'mores and More- January 8,15,22,29
 - 250 plus in attendance across all events
- Youth Pond Hockey Day- Cancelled due to warm temps
- Pond Hockey- Cancelled due to warm temps
- Ice Fishing Derby- Cancelled due to warm temps
- Cardboard Sled Race Cancelled due to warm temps
- Birding Festival- January 20th

The Events Team is busy prepping for the following event this spring and summer.

* Is a new event.

- Butterfly Ball – March 29-30
 - This event is changing to any child with their role model.
- Birding Festival – May 11
- Hello Spring – May 18
- Music in the Park*- May 23rd
- Fairy Fest*- May 25th
 - This event will be held at Yunker Farm
- Monstrous Imagination -May 29th
- Fearless Friends (Taylor's Version) *- June 6th
- Neighborhood Sport Series- June 6th, July 16th, July 30th
- Learn to build- April 17th, June 12th
- Midwest Kid Fest 25th Anniversary- June 14th
- Trout Fest- June 19th
- Kids Triathlon- June 25th
- Music in the Park*- June 27th, Jul 18
- 701 Day- July 1st
- Broadway Square Bash- August 9th
- Glow Golf – August 22nd, September 12th
- Movies in the Park – July, 11, 19, 25
- Senior Games- August 14th -16th
- Island Park Show- August 24th, 25th
- 10 Parks to Go boxes
- Foundation Golf Tournament
- Sports Center Grand Opening
- Goose Johnson Invitational Golf Tournament
- NDRPA- 2025
 - There was discussion on the Silent Disco. Commissioner Dawson mentioned it would be a great event at the Sports Center.

Update on Scheduling

Marcy Brush presented.

We are on year 2 of online campground reservations. Last year approximately 50% were

made online. We are currently at 277 (as of 2/20/24 – 87%) online campground reservations this season.

The Metro Rec is now available to reserve online 2 weeks out. This has been going well and is a good test for using the same process at the Sports Center.

All current facilities (each reservable space) within the Sports Center have been set up in the reservation system. Reservation Request Forms were emailed to area groups on February 16th.

Continue work on the Fargo Sports Center

- Verbiage on descriptions, confirmations, and contracts
- Miscellaneous other

Update on Program Registration

Bekey Hicks presented.

Categories for online activities have been broadened with the addition of the Sports Center. This is still in process but close to complete.

All activities will be visible throughout the year and grayed out when not available for registration.

Update on Concessions

Chad Pfau presented.

1. Introduced Keltie Wetch who joined the Food and Beverage team as our third Concession Supervisor.
2. Update on Winter Concessions

Hockey Arenas

YEAR	SALES	UNITS SOLD
2022-2023	\$118,622.00	51,635
2023-2024	\$138,821.50	53,497
	+\$20,199.50	+1,862

Santa Village

YEAR	SALES	UNITS SOLD
2022	\$7,270.00	3205
2023	\$10,234.50	4356
	+\$2,964.50	+1151

Broadway Square

2023 \$1357.00

We do not have exact data from 2022 due to change in staff. We are down in sales from the previous year.

Due to weather, we did not operate Concessions at the Chalet and Pond Hockey this year.

3. Spring /Summer Concession Stand Update
 - a. J.O. Volleyball starts March 9th – the end of April excluding Easter weekend at Sports Arena. We are excited for the Volleyball season as it is our busiest stand during the year.
 - b. We will operate stands at all the pools with the exception of Island Park Pool (due to construction), and we are bringing back hot food options to Davies pool this season.
 - c. We will have all of our ballfield stands open this summer, North Complex, Mickelson, Anderson and Davies. We are restructuring the North Complex stand to better serve the customer and streamline processes.
4. The Sports Center has been an ongoing project for our team. We have been able to narrow down a starting menu with the help of Sysco and the test kitchen studies that we have done. We have created team meals, party packages and catering menus.
5. Number recaps for year and season.

2023 TOP ITEMS SOLD

Pop	15,699
Ice cream treats	13,663
Hot dogs	12,233
Water	11,601
Popcorn	10,036
Gatorade	9,601
Chips	9,363
Pizzas	7,256
Bubblr	3,188
Big Pickles	2,697

CALENDAR YEAR SALES

YEAR	SALES	UNITS SOLD
2022	\$225,310.00	101,114
2023	\$337,131.00	136,474
	+\$111,821	+35,360

Concessions Discussion - Kevin mentioned that Chad lined up two test kitchens from Sysco and it was a great experience. Stephanie added she has received compliments on the concessions at their events. Chad stated that the existing stands are somewhat limited and going into the Sports Center they are eager to offer more options that showcase concessions' capability. Commissioner Rostad mentioned that being intentional with our concession stands have made a huge difference. Chad said he had talked to Paul of Valley Senior Services (VSS) to potentially be a meal site for VSS or to prepare meals for VSS at the Sports Center.

Other

Kevin reviewed the program/participant ratio sheets that staff puts together at the beginning of the new year. Kevin explained that they use these sheets to review each program to make changes if needed and to adjust participation fees. Kevin will send these out to the Commissioners and Directors.

Kevin reviewed the potential programs and events that would be added at the FPSC. These programs/events will be put into the schedule software and discussed with Kali and Paul to see how these dates work with potential renters of the facility.

With no further questions, the meeting was adjourned.

Notes submitted by: Bekey Hicks, Administrative Assistant