

Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 27, 2024; 8:15 am

Island Park Conference room

Park Ordinances:

Susan started the discussion regarding reviewing the ordinances, she stated that Dave had a great suggestion to reach out nationally and finding out what other parks and recreation departments are doing with their ordinances. Do we want to look at them individually, collectively, but figure out what makes the most sense. Dave stated we access to NRPA Connect; it is a great resource for exchanging information. We had people for North Carolina and Michigan reach out, we received Bismarck's ordinances through Tony. Dave mentioned, instead of prioritizing which ordinance to start with just redo them all, it comes down to about 10-12 basic ordinances.

Susan stated that going the PSMP and the consultants comparing us to different cities, reach out to those cities and request their ordinances.

Commissioner Hill asked regarding timeline, Susan stated that this will take some time, we need to include staff and Jeff Gunkleman. Should some of the ordinances show up on the park's signs. Commissioner Rostad asked if we should coordinate with the City of Fargo police department? Dave said they could review it but that is where Jeff comes in.

Commissioner Hill suggested to keep this topic as a standing item on the agenda.

State Election Results-Strategy for upcoming legislative session

Commissioner Rostad stated there are already property tax reform bills in the works.

There is one bill having property tax by real estate square footage instead of value. Susan said she and Broc are on the NRPA Policy Committee, they sent out a report regarding legislative priorities for 2025. Commissioner Rostad asked when the Parks and Recs Day is. Dave said it is no longer a stand-alone day, but it is in February. Susan stated that she and other staff feel like it is important to be more involved at the legislative sessions. Jayne stated that Paul Grindeland from Valley Senior Services is very involved and makes trips out to Bismarck.

Governance Annual Work Plan

Commissioner Hill stated there is no Governance meeting in December and it will start again in January. GP-6 and OE 1 and 5 will be reviewed. Discussed how the process will go and what needs to be done. Susan stated that for the workshop in March possibly discussing the PSMP and Strategic Plan and reviewing what has been accomplished. Commissioner Hill said that he and Commissioner Absey have met regarding the board orientation and starting to revise the process.

Governance Committee Purpose

Commissioner Hill said he would like to keep reviewing the purpose of the Governance Committee and making sure things are getting done properly. Please keep on the agenda.

Other

1. Susan stated we are working on and internal financial/payroll, one system that can be used for both and many different areas of the park district. Broc is taking the lead on this, Jayne stated Broc met with Jamestown, they use Tyler Technologies, the City uses

this as well. Jayne said it seemed very “old”. The payroll portion is very different. We need to look at other systems. Commissioner Rostad asked if there are potential opportunities for us to share capabilities with the city. Jayne said Paylocity has more modules that are not being utilized, not sure if there are limitations or if it was the ability to use the system fully. The City of Fargo is on the list to discuss options.

2. Susan suggested to discuss the EOLA situation. At the last Planning Meeting, Brent Olson was there, he is a developer. They are negotiating a cash in lieu and letting them take the land or other options. The developers are hoping we decide soon. Susan said the staff thinks the best option is to get cash in lieu. Looking to get a recommendation in the next week and be ready at the next board meeting.
3. Commissioner Rostad mentioned talking with Jayne Miller. She had said she was surprised that the Park District operates as well as it does based on somethings. He asked how are we going to address this and how are we proceeding? Susan stated there is a meeting today and Jayne Miller is going to provide us with a summary of what she heard from the staff and internal interviews. It will be a deeper conversation and discussion. We need to prioritize, and she will have an assessment of what the next steps are.
4. Commissioner Absey brought up the issue of taking time off to vote on election day. There was a staff member that didn't know why they had to use personal time to go and vote. Susan and Commissioner Absey had a good conversation regarding Century codes and there is not much the park system can do. She suggested to include this in the policy to make it clear on why you have to go on your own time, so they have an understanding.
5. Commissioner Rostad asked if a new golf director has been chosen, Jayne and Dave said they are working on making the decision and making an offer.

Minutes submitted by Carmen Johnson, Executive Assistant