

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Members' Term Attendance</u> (mtgs attended-mtgs absent)	<u>End of Current Term of Office</u>
MEMBERS PRESENT:	Brandt, Valerie (via Zoom)	(21-24)	06/20/21
	Grace, Darrell	(24-8)	06/20/21
	Heim, Michael	(11-6)	02/03/24
	Lanham, Annette	(7-0)	02/03/24
	Luedtke, Patti	(4-0)	08/31/25
	Nelson, Pam (via Zoom)	(16-1)	02/03/24
	Nelson, Scott (via Zoom)	(5-0)	07/27/25
	Supple-Bish, Mary	(14-3)	02/03/24
MEMBERS ABSENT :	Clark, Chris	(9-8)	02/11/24
STAFF PRESENT:	Chuck Kempf, Director Parks, Recreation & Civic Facilities Jeffrey Atkins, Assistant Director Parks, Recreation & Civic Facilities Jessica Oshel, Special Events & Communications Coordinator		

Call to Order.

Chairman Chris Clark unable to attend. Mike Heim made a motion to call the meeting to order at 4:00pm, seconded, motion passed. Darrell Grace made a motion that Mike Heim chair the meeting, seconded, motion passed.

ITEM #2 - Approval of minutes

Approved

ITEM #3 – Updates:

- a. Hyde Park Splash Park – Change order for the underground water issue. \$128,273 Lawhon and \$1,937.50. This delayed construction so the revised date will be late Spring (early June.) Before January they did make some progress. The building itself is built and roof installed. When weather breaks, they can get back to work. The restrooms will all be Unisex – six total.
- b. Holiday Park & South Pole – This year no collection or cherry mash. We believe there were more people through this year than in the past. We received good comments on social media. New display at South Pole this year – penguin & igloo which was donated in memory of a family member. The Optimist Club have received a few donations. We lost only a couple of days due to ice. Most of the decorations are down and stored. Last year we were able to take advantage of pre-ordering discounts on lighting, but not sure if we can this year. Hope for a better 2021.
- c. River Bluff Trail projects – Survey completed last November. Ideker has cleared the main trail along the bluff to north of Water Co property line. Looking at long term lease agreement with Water Co. Drainpipe installed but did not get chad down before weather. Nomad flagging mountain bike trails. Ideker has cleared all overhead obstacles. Overall good progress. We have been in discussion with bike groups – local, regional, etc. to have programs. Exploring gateway at the trail head off Highland. Something obvious to welcome to trail. Proposed restroom structure will be looked into to make sure it would be possible.

- d. Challenges with Labor Shortages (COVID-19) – Unable to have the defender labor this past year. They do not want to release them to work due to COVID. We normally average around 12 people Monday-Friday. They are usually year-round. They do the trimming, push mowing, trash pickup, debris removal, set up for events at facilities, ice & snow removal, etc. We hope to have them back this year maybe by at least June 1. If we lose them again this year, we will have even more issues. It is not easy to get seasonal employees who will work like the defender crews. Lack of seasonal workers has affected all our facilities. We are competing with businesses to obtain the available labor. Without these crews we are not able to complete the extra work with the employees we currently have. Not having defender labor increased the cost of hiring seasonal laborers. Funds are not available to even compensate for the loss of defender crews.

Cost of defender labor:

\$7.50 per day per person, \$37.50 per person per week, \$450 for 12 people per week

Cost of seasonal labor:

\$108 per day per person, \$540 per person per week, \$6,480 for 12 people per week

Additional Cost:

\$156,680 extra cost over the 26-week growing season

1. Valerie Brandt – stated inmates work really hard and finding employees to replace these people is a problem.
 2. Scott Nelson – do the defender laborers receive any more funds from another source or is the nominal amount we pay all they receive. Jeff Atkins response – what we pay is all they receive.
 3. Chuck Kempf – we are just beginning the budget process for the next fiscal year so if the defender crews will not be released, we have to propose a large increase in our budget to address the issue.
 4. Scott Nelson – will CARES Act funds be available to pay for labor. Chuck Kempf – we did not receive an answer if they would be eligible for reimbursement and did not receive reimbursement for what we submitted. Would like to have a better plan going forward for this year.
 5. Chuck Kempf – we currently have 23 full time employees of which 1 office staff, 1 superintendent, 3 supervisors, 1 plumber, 1 electrician, 3 care takers of large parks. All our supervisors are out in the field working along with all employees. We do have some part time people on large mowers. Small hand tool crews are the issue.
- e. Financial Impact of COVID-19 on Department – Fiscal year is July 1 – June 30 – Looking at the revenue and expenses between January 2019-December 2019 and comparing them with January 2020-December 2020 – all our facilities/program were affected. Overall, around \$360,000 less revenue and \$129,000 less expenses. Some savings in part time wages at some facilities due to closures. Civic Arena – events/promoters are very leery of scheduling. The one event held did not have much success. The Civic Arena was useful as the emergency facility, PPE storage/distribution, and now as a vaccine site. The golf course was up in revenue, but also in expenditures. Golf expenditures were largely due increase in employees to handle the extra COVID restrictions requiring more cleaning. We are hoping that the outdoor activities and sports will benefit with more people using alternatives to get out. The trails were used heavily this past year. Expect use of outdoor areas to continue.

ITEM #3 – Upcoming Events

- a. Valentine Craft Kits – sell kits beginning Monday, January 25, for \$8. We have 24 available.
- b. Valentine Candy to Coleman Elementary – some of the remaining candy from prior event
- c. Outlaw Adventure Run – run through Krug Park with some man made and natural obstacles – March 27 - \$60 per participant.
- d. JRP 50+ Center – 50 after 50 program – partner with different organizations on variety of activities both in person and virtual

ITEM #4 –Open Discussion

No open discussion

ITEM #5 –Public Comment

- a. Kenny Reeder – Question: Rehab Civic Arena – 3% Hotel/Motel Tax around \$500,000. None of that was to be used for salaries. Is it being used for salaries? Chuck Kempf – salaries are paid through generated revenue and not tax.
Chuck Kempf – entertainment market tough right now and it has changed a lot over the years. Sporting events (college, NAIA, youth, etc.) we are losing out due the conditions of the arena. If we can make needed improvements, we could get those events.

ITEM #6 - Adjourn

A motion to adjourn meeting, seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, February 18, 2021, 4:00pm** at Parks, Recreation & Civic Facilities office, 1920 Grand Avenue.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Lori Frederick, Executive Administrative Assistant