

Hartford Park and Recreation Board - Regular Meeting July 24,2023

President Josh Mulder called to order the meeting of the Park and Recreation Board at 6:30pm at Hartford City Hall with the following board members present: Josh Mulder, Matt Evans, Kandi Lewi, Chris Woslager (city council representative) and Craig Wagner arriving at approximately 6:45pm (city employee representative). Absent with notice was Gail Blocker and Callie Tuschen. City Administrator Teresa Sidel was also present. There was no one from the public present at the meeting.

Approve Agenda: A motion was made by Evans and seconded by Mulder to approve the agenda as set- all voted yes, motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made by Evans and seconded by Lewin to approve the minutes from the June 26, 2023, Board meeting – all voted yes, motion carried.

Public Comments: None

Reports:

City Administrator Sidel provided an update to the Board on the following:

- Bike Trail project – Plans are being finalized by ISG and the city is awaiting approval from FEMA.
- Storm shelter project – FEMA has approved the extension of the timeline for the project, but no word was received on cost amendments.
- Bike Trail Bricks – The engraver bricks, purchased through the former bike trail committee, were cleaned and re-painted. and bike trail bricks.

Councilman Woslager stated that he would be able to secure additional rocks for the dog park if needed – Wagner will work with Woslager to see if the city can place some more rocks in the dog park.

Old Business:

- Swenson Park - The dugout benches are still on order. Order and placement of any additional shade structures will be delayed until after the storm shelter is erected. The public works department has the new sprinkler system up and running.

New Business:

- 2024 Budget Development – The Board discussed the following items for the Park & Rec Board 2024 Budget:
 - **Pickleball Court(s):** A need for pickleball courts has been expressed by the public. Discussion about utilizing the current basketball court in Lyon Park for a portable court was discussed, along with erecting a new court(s) in the old tennis court area. After discussion of placement, size, and costs – it was the consensus of the Board to look at erecting 2 new pickleball courts (60'x60' total). Total cost would be \$35,000.
 - **Shade Structures for the Sports Complex:** These have been put on hold until after the storm shelter is erected – possibly 2025 request for \$28,000.
 - **Park/Bike Trail Benches:** It has been discussed that Beaverbuilt will manufacture benches that can be placed in the city park system or along the bike trails. These bench can be placed and then members of the community can “buy” a bench that will received a dedication plaque on it. Beaverbuilt will sell the city one bench for \$700 or if we purchase 3 benches at a time, the price will be \$600 each. The city has received donation funds for 2 benches, so we know we need to purchase at least 2 benches in 2024. It was the consensus of the Board to ask for funding for 6 benches in 2024 so we can have on hand for future donations. Total cost would be \$3,600.
 - **Player Benches:** Another item of need is player benches at Turtle Creek Park and Milo Park. Wagner noted that a 15' bench can be purchased for \$1,000 – the city would need

4 benches (one for each dugout at Turtle Creek and Milo fields). Total cost would be \$4,000.

- **Batting Cage at Swenson Park:** The batting cage at Swenson Park needs replacing. With poles and nets the total cost is estimated to be \$22,000. If the city purchases the batting nets in 2023, only funds will be needed for the framing and poles. Total costs without the nets would be \$17,500.
- **Splash Park:** The want for a splash park was also discussed. Wagner checked with a few other cities that have splash parks. Although popular, the cost to erect is expensive and the cost to maintain is expensive. Since the Board currently has no plans for what or where to place for a splash park, this item was tabled until a later date.
- **Shade Awnings for the Library green area:** The city now owns city hall and the Gage Building. The green area in between is also owned by the city. The library utilizes this area in the summer for story hour and various activities. This area also receives a lot of daytime sun and is quite hot for the kids, parents, and workers. The city could purchase 3 shade awnings that could be bolted to each building so shade could be provided. Total cost would be \$1,000.
- **Swimming Pool:** It was the consensus of the Board to ask for additional funds to be placed in reserves for a future pool. Total ask would be \$100,000.
- **Extension of Parking Lot:** Wagner noted that something to think about for future years is extending the parking lot at Swenson Park. The Board will look at adding this to their 5-year plan.

Further discussion was held by the Board, and it was noted that \$22,000 for shade structures for Swenson Park is currently in the city's 2023 budget but this purchase is being postponed until a later date – possibly 2025. The Board discussed possibly utilizing these funds, with council approval, on some of the small items discussed in order to keep the Board's 2024 budget request lower. President Mulder plans to attend the council's 8/1 meeting to ask to utilize \$16,100 of the Board's 2023 budget funds for the following:

- **Pickle Ball Equipment (nets, rackets, balls) - \$3,000**
- **Benches for Park/Bike Trails - \$3,600**
- **Player Benches for Turtle Creek & Milo Fields - \$4,000**
- **Net for Batting Cage - \$4,500**
- **Shade Awnings for the Library green area - \$1,000**

A motion was made by Mulder, second by Evans to ask the city council to reallocate \$16,100 of 2023 budget funds from the shade structures for Swenson Park to pickleball equipment, benches for park/bike trail, player benches for Turtle Creek & Milo fields, nets for the batting cage, and shade awnings for the library area – all voted yes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Mulder, second by Evans to submit a request for \$152,500 for the following 2024 budget items if council allows the reallocation of 2023 funds: Pickleball Courts (2) - \$35,000; Structure for Batting Cage at Swenson Park - \$17,500; Future pool fund - \$100,000 – all voted yes, motion carried. A motion was made by Mulder, second by Lewin to submit a request for \$168,600 for the 2024 budget if council does not allow the reallocation of 2023 budget funds – all voted yes, motion carried.

Other Discussion Topics:

- Agenda Items for next meeting:
 - Update on Bike Trail Project & Storm Shelter Project

- Review 2023 Expenses & Possible Purchases
- Application for Brewery Fundraiser
- 1-5 year Plan

Adjournment: A motion was made by Mulder, seconded by Lewin, to adjourn at 7:38pm - all voted yes, motion carried.

I, Teresa Sidel, City Administrator, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes which are on file at Hartford City Hall.