

Kearney Park Board Minutes—Thursday June 22nd, 2023 meeting

On Thursday, June 22nd, 2023 the Kearney Park Board met for its monthly meeting in-person. Connie Crawford called the meeting to order. Members present were Connie Crawford, Nick DiBenedetto, Dan Holt, Lisa Cheesebrough, Jon Costa, Greg Gillahan, Ali Jorn and Kristi Mayo. Staff members present was Eric Marshall and Ryan Marcotte. Absent was Julie Jones.

Park board minutes from the May 16th, 2023 meeting were presented, with Lisa Cheesebrough, making a motion to approve the minutes, and Dan Holt seconding the motion...the motion was approved 8-0.

Public Requests & Petitions: Shannon Bond of 807 Blackberry Circle came before the board to discuss taking over the upkeep and maintenance of the off-road nature trail along the Fishing River walking trail, and potentially forming a nonprofit entity to assist in raising funds wholly dedicated to those ends. He discussed the estimated labor time and equipment needs to make his vision a reality. Staff indicated that city equipment could only be used by city staff for liability reasons, and suggested that his proposed nonprofit entity might be the best way to proceed, and offered to potentially help with the cost of materials. Dan Holt made a motion to support this endeavor, and to have city staff follow up with the city administrator and the legal dept. Greg Gillahan seconded the motion. The motion was approved 8-0.

Old Business: Aquatics Update: Eric Marshall told the board that the second public input meeting on a potential aquatics center would be held Tuesday, July 25th from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM at the Kearney High School commons area. He said that there would be revised plans available at the meeting for public input based off the community aquatic survey held in the spring.

Pickleball Court Update: Eric informed the board that there were a few outstanding punch list items at the pickleball courts and skate park for the contractors to take care of, and that staff would advise the board how the city will proceed regarding the missed construction deadline.

Hall Park: Dan Holt asked for an update on the Hall Park project, and Eric reported that LWCF was an entire year behind at the federal level on reviewing grant applications, and that the earliest staff expects to hear anything on the status of their application is May of 2024.

Spring Sports: Ryan Marcotte reported that spring sport season was wrapping up and that it was wholly successful, with over 600 kids enrolled. Ryan also told the board that summer pickleball leagues were starting soon, and that there would also be youth leagues and clinics.

He also mentioned that staff was in discussions to potentially partner with Smithville and Platte City on lower enrollment sports such as Volleyball.

He said that the KPR Scholarship fund continued to grow through private sponsorship and a fundraiser held by Tri-R-BBQ directly benefitting the fund.

Amphitheater: Ryan reported that the Shooting Star concert on June 17th was a success, and that it appeared that it was going to be close to breaking even financially.

He also mentioned the July 3rd celebration would feature the band KC Groove Therapy at 7:30 pm, with the fireworks following at 9:30 pm. Eric mentioned that inflatables, cotton candy, and cornhole games would be available throughout the evening as well.

Board Comments-

Dan Holt mentioned that he received complaints about people smoking marijuana at the Shooting Star concert, and asked if staff could hang signs indicating that smoking marijuana at the amphitheater was prohibited. Staff agreed to do so.

Greg Gillahan mentioned that the Kearney Pickleball Complex was the top result when googling “Kansas City Pickleball”.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business on the agenda, a motion was made by Dan Holt and seconded by Nick DiBenedetto to adjourn to Thursday, July 18th at 6:30 pm. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved: _____

Connie Crawford Chairperson

Julie Jones _____

Secretary