

Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting  
June 26, 2017

Present: Committee Members LeJeune, Fleck and Buxton; Council Members Clausen, Larmore, Scott, and Sovinski; Mayor Hazel; Safety-Service Director Hitchcock; Auditor Strawn; Law Director Moore; Bill Kincaid, The Daily Standard.

Committee Chairman LeJeune called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm for discussion of the volunteer Park Board Committee recommendations and parks usage for events.

CM LeJeune reported he has been fortunate to attend the Parks Board Committee meetings representing council and gave suggested changes from the Parks Board Committee.

1. Grouping team sports participants from birthday age to school grade.
2. Exemption for a special needs child. I.e. a child may be in third grade but have a disability that would allow him to participate in the first grade age group.
3. No smoking signs near baseball dugouts and bleachers.
4. Improve lighting along the park streets for ease of navigating entrance and exit in the evening hours.
5. Motion sensor flood lights near restrooms.
6. Consideration of video surveillance camera system in the parks.

CM Scott asked if the grade issue should go with the grade and an age limit. A child may be held back, and there could be a three year difference in ages. Director Hitchcock stated the current system got implemented two or three years ago to follow the International Little League rules. Currently, baseball and softball is by age and soccer is by grade. These were decided to correspond with traveling teams. CM LeJeune stated there is some confusion with the parents when enrolling their children in baseball/softball and soccer. It would be nice to have one uniform system. He suggested there should also be an age consideration.

Mayor Hazel stated another problem the City has seen is that parent's decide their child is more advanced and want their kids to play with an older team. It is explained that this is not a travel team, and is not what the City leagues are designed to do.

CM Fleck stated he thinks the motion detector lights are a good idea. We need to do a study on how far to go with the surveillance system. Higher resolution equipment may hold a higher cost. CM Clausen asked if game cameras were put out at the parks and they got stolen. Director Hitchcock replied there were cameras installed, but he believes they were damaged. A lot of the vandalism is done inside the restrooms. We can monitor who enters the restroom, but no camera can be installed inside. CM LeJeune recommended the Administration at least look into a proper surveillance system in the vicinity of the restrooms, the upcoming amphitheater and splash pad, Montgomery Field, and the Westview Park softball field area.

The next item of discussion was the Special Events Application. Director Hitchcock distributed a sample application. CM Sovinski suggested the application be used, then revisited in a year. This application is for the for-profit entities who want to use the parks. The Grand Lake Marathon and US 127 Garage Sale in the park are two events that would need to complete this.

Members held a discussion on the insurance requirements. Director Hitchcock will check with the City's insurance company to see what their requirements are.

CM LeJeune asked if there is anything in the application that would encourage recycling. Mayor Hazel stated most State parks rules state you bring it in, you take it out. The City picks up trash after the non-profit events that are held in the park, and is absorbing the cost of this. Administration will check with Maharg if they have recycling bins available for use at special events.

Director Hitchcock explained the police officers are designated to cover the special events and charge based on their salary.

President King stated he thinks the fees are a little high. Mayor Hazel stated this is a service and a facility that we offer, and the fees will pay the costs. Director Hitchcock stated after a few events, Administration will know what the actual costs to the City are.

CM Clausen suggested a description of the event should be included. Director Hitchcock responded he will discuss the details of the event with the applicants.

CM Sovinski recommended a waiver line be added to the application to allow some room for discretion by the Director.

CM Clausen asked if the event gets cancelled, the fees are retained. Mayor Hazel stated he does not want to see the fees non-refundable. CM Sovinski suggested the fees be open for waiver by the Safety-Service Director.

Chairman LeJeune adjourned the meeting at 6:41 pm.

Submitted by Joan S. Wurster, Clerk of Council