

January 9, 2017

The regular meeting of the Park and Recreation Board of the City of Seward, Nebraska, was held on Monday, January 9, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. at the Council Chambers in the Municipal Building, 142 North 7th Street. Members present: Randy Chapp, Lana Urban, Kenneth Schmieding, Sandy Wright, James Placke, Brady Johnson (5:36 p.m.), Andrea Baack; Absent: Dennis, Erks, Justin Hartman. Others in attendance: Park/Recreation/Cemetery/Golf Director Robert Core, Recreation Director Assistant Patricia Sanley, City Councilmember Ellen Beck.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by posting in the following places: City Hall, County Courthouse, Seward Memorial Library and Municipal Building. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice of the meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public. A copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted at this location for public inspection.

The meeting was called to order. A copy of the agenda for this meeting was posted at City Hall, Seward County Courthouse, Seward Memorial Library and Municipal Building. A copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted in the Municipal Building for public inspection

### **1. CONSENT AGENDA ITEM**

Moved by Baack, seconded by Wright, that the minutes of October 3, 2016 be approved.

Aye: Baack, Wright, Placke, Schmieding, Chapp, Urban

Nay: None

Absent: Johnson, Hartman, Erks. Motion carried.

### **2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Urban opening nominations for Chairman. Placke nominated Chapp, seconded by Wright. No further nominations were received.

Aye: Wright, Baack, Johnson, Schmieding, Placke, Chapp, Urban

Nay: None

Absent: Erks, Hartman. Motion carried. (Chapp elected Chairman)

Chapp opened nominations for Vice-Chairman. Baack nominated Erks, seconded by Schmieding. No further nominations were received.

Aye: Wright, Baack, Johnson, Schmieding, Placke, Urban, Chapp

Nay: None

Absent: Hartman, Erks. Motion carried. (Erks elected Vice-Chairman)

Chapp opened nominations for Secretary. Baack nominated Urban and Wright as co-secretaries, seconded by Placke. No further nominations were received.

Aye: Wright, Baack, Johnson, Schmieding, Placke, Urban, Chapp

Nay: None

Absent: Erks, Hartman. Motion carried (Urban and Wright Co-Secretaries)

Board reappointments of Wright, Johnson and Chapp were mentioned. All expressed their interest in continuing to serve on the Board.

### **3. CATTLE BANK ATHLETIC TRAINING FACILITY**

Handouts pertaining to the Cattle Athletic Training Facility usage and rental policy, along with a chart of the coaches and teams signed up to use the facility, were distributed by Bob Core. Due to the tremendous use of the facility and the ongoing need to replace equipment in the near future, fees for use were increased. Seward-based team registration (Dec. 1 through May 1) was increased from \$125 per team to \$200 per team. Week-day use and battling cage (individual) prime time was increased from \$5 per hour to \$10 per hour. Sanley spoke of the increase in calls from out-of-county coaches and

teams, due to Seward's fees being much cheaper compared to prices charged by facilities in Omaha and Lincoln. The Board reviewed the chart of the 24 teams signed up to use the facility and their percentage of Seward-based players. Discussion followed concerning who should be allowed use of the facility and what was meant by the terms "Seward-based" and "non-Seward based". Johnson suggested a sub-committee be formed to discuss and present policy changes to be implemented for next year.

Moved by Chapp, seconded by Placke, to form a sub-committee to discuss and present policy changes/suggestions to the Board at the April, 2017 meeting.

Aye: Wright, Baack, Schmieding, Johnson, Placke, Chapp, Urban

Nay: None

Absent: Erks. Hartman. Motion carried.

Board members Johnson, Baack and Wright volunteered to make up the sub-committee to meet with Sanley and Core. Schmieding requested the proposed policy changes be emailed to the Board for their review prior to the April, 2017 meeting.

#### **4. SEWARD COMMUNITY GOLF COURSE UPDATE**

Core reported success with the City's first year of operating the Seward Community Golf Course. Play was up and improvements to the golf course are underway. Trees were trimmed on the driving range for easier retrieval of golf balls, and lawn clippings are being dumped on the south end of the property ("NO DUMPING" signs are needed.) Plans are to level out the ridge on the south end.

Discussion followed as to whether drivers should be used on the driving range, or perhaps down the road, setting up a 15-foot net to prevent golf balls from entering residential properties and then, not being retrievable. The sinkhole on Hole 8 is being studied and worked on, as well as removing the dirt from the ditch on Hole 9. The bridge is being reviewed for repairs on Hole 4. A culvert was replaced on Hole 9 (rotted). Equipment maintenance is being completed. Hole 7 dead space is being reviewed to convert to a pond for surplus water.

Placke mentioned that the City's first year running the golf course was a success and noted that each year may get a little more difficult as players' expectations of the course increase. He noted a little more care will benefit the appearance and cleanliness by making a list of golf shop duties before being off-duty for the evening, such as golf carts cleaned, ball-washers on carts filled with water, trash cans emptied, etc.

Core said a janitor was hired part-time mid-summer, so cleanliness of the golf shop and bathrooms should have improved. The wall in front of the bathrooms will be removed to allow area for golf clothing and apparel and open the space up. The room with tables will also be improved for an added lounge area. It was brought to Urban's attention by a member that workers in the pro shop should be assertive in identifying golfers for membership or paying green fees. Placke also mentioned the need for sand in the sand traps. Golfers want to see the City golf course be a future success and thanked the City for a successful first year.

#### **5. WINTER RECREATION/PUBLIC PROPERTIES ACTIVITY REPORTS**

The following information was presented:

Youth Wrestling - The wrestling season ended for 60 youth on December 12, 2016. Bob Core and Josh Schoepf coordinated the wrestling program for the Seward Recreation Department.

Youth Baseball - Registration will start mid-January for American Legion Baseball (high school) and for Pony and Major Little League players (Grades 5-8).

Volleyball - Registrations will go out for women's volleyball if there are not enough coed teams interested in playing. Forms are available online or at the Recreation office.

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Basketball Practice for 14 basketball teams begins January 7. Games begin January 21 at the middle school gyms. The season will end February 25.

Public Properties - Fall projects completed included aerating, fertilizing and seeding of the ballfields and soccer fields. Additional parking pads were installed at the Cattle Training Facility. Maintenance on mowers and other power equipment will continue, along with refurbishing park signs, trash cans and picnic tables. Snow and ice removal, as needed, will continue throughout the winter.

Seward Community Golf Course - Dirt was removed from the ditch on Hole 9. Trees were trimmed, and repairs to the bridge on Hole 4 are being reviewed. Maintenance on equipment is being completed. Removal of the south wall in front of the restrooms in the golf shop and painting will also be completed.

Discussion was held on the decrease in numbers participating in the Recreation basketball program. Suggestions included less games, with more skill development, three-on-three; the program "Supreme Court" meets January 10, 12 and 17 and other dates in the evening to develop skills; more teams are entering tournaments, not leagues.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 3, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Moved by Johnson, seconded by Placke, that the meeting be adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Aye: Wright, Baack, Johnson, Schmieding, Placke, Chapp, Urban

Nay: None

Absent: Erks, Hartman. Motion carried.

Lana Urban, Co-Secretary