



Recreation & Arena Advisory Commission Meeting
September 13, 2021 6:00pm
Rochester Arena Upstairs Program Room



Attendance: Steve Trepanier, Dale Bickford, Kevin Kelley, Will Schreiber, Chris Bowlen, Mark Toussaint, Dave Camire, Jim Chambers, Art Jacobs, Dick Clough, Sheila Colson, Joan Strogon, Paul Roberts, Blaine Cox

1. Accept June Minutes

- Dale Bickford motion to accept. Sheila Colson second.

2. Review Revenue & Expense Reports

- Asst. Director Krans indicated that the Recreation Revenue reports did not capture swim and camp revenue. Those amounts are currently sitting in a deferred revenue account from the past fiscal year. Summer camp is around \$46,000 and swim totals around \$9,900. Specific amounts will be captured in next meeting's report.
- Dale Bickford motion to accept. Sheila Colson second.

3. Communications With the City Manager

- City Manager Cox encouraged the board to seize opportunity to appear in front of the City Council to share support and successes of the department.
- D. Bickford and D. Clough inquired about city's COVID protocols. Dave Camire briefed the group on the School Boards data driven approach. Director Bowlen explained that the department is well versed in best practices and will continue to encourage customers to assess their own individual situations and risk. City Manager Cox voiced his support for this approach.
- D. Camire suggested the board get on the agenda for the City Council in January.

4. Squamanagonic Park Discussion

- Director Bowlen gave the group a brief history of the property.
- Stakeholder's from the disc golf group community attended the meeting to share their concerns about the new gate at the property.
- Will Shriver, avid disc golfer, shared that this sport and recreation area brings people from around the region to enjoy Rochester and all it has to offer. The new gate limits the ability for people to park. He has witnessed many people leave after they are unable to find a parking spot.
- Director Bowlen suggested the disc golfers form a group/board to create a unified voice to communicate with the city and explore solutions going forward.
- The recreation department will work the City Manager on potential solutions and will notify the disc golf users at the meeting of opportunities to share their input.



5. Summer Program Recap

- Rec Supervisor Jacobs briefed the board on summer program successes. 95 summer campers
- Community Swim: Hanson Pines 3,865 Gonic 1,874 East Rochester 3,360
- Senior Swim 422 185 Swim Lesson
- Weather was challenging, the rain/heat caused cancellation of Concert on the Common multiple times
- Lifeguard staffing was a challenging. We only had 10 lifeguards; typically we have 14-16.
- Two senior trips this summer. Indoor senior breakfast also resumed.
- Currently preparing for a full fall programming schedule.
- Tennis courts are in the process of being re-surfaced.

6. Ice Season Update

- Opening day moved one day back to 9/14. Public Skate and Learn to Skate start in early October. All user groups are returning for contracted ice time. The Sunday night house league traditionally run by the department will be taken over by an individual.
- The building has been painted. The colors are the same as the new Public Works garage as part of the city's branding/wayfinding.

7. Department Operations Update

- Department COVID philosophy is to encourage and educate patrons to make their own participation decisions based on their individual/household situation and risk levels.
- With the support of the City Manager's office, the department deployed facility signage to capture this.
- Continue to work closely with health officials to stay up to date on best practices.
- The Recreation Center continues to use the doorbell. This has worked well for school and program use of the gym and hallway. Commission supported keeping these facilities operations as is.

8. Other

- Ryan Trepanier's position has been elevated to Recreation Services Supervisor: Recreation Facilities and Operations
- Northeast Passage is renting space in the gym. Some concerns from facilities was brought forward about damage to the floor. Rec staff will monitor and as long as wear and tear is reasonable, rental will continue.
- American Recovery Funds-Going to the finance committee to advocate for offset of revenues for the arena and also exploration of a city child care cooperative.
- Windows at the Arena are getting replaced in a few weeks.
- Turf is scheduled to be purchased for spring
- Department van has been ordered.

Next meeting October 18, 2021 Arena downstairs conference room.