

CITY OF MERRIAM PARK AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, November 19, 2019
6:00PM

Roll Call

The November meeting of the Merriam Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 6:00 pm, by Chairperson Billy Crook. Board members in attendance included: Kathy Stull, LaVera Howard, Christopher Leitch, Thelma Fowler, Katie Leary, Kyle Cooper and Grant Getzlow. Staff members in attendance included: Anna Slocum, Director; Dave Smothers, Assistant Director; Renee Nagle, Recreation Supervisor, Cole Surber, Aquatic Supervisor and Nicole Ritter, Facility Supervisor.

Public Comments

There was no one present for public comments.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Billy Crook requested that in the October minutes more detailed information be included in Other Business stating that Thelma Fowler had presented survey information. Anna Slocum reminded the Board that the minutes are supposed to be a succinct summary of the discussion and the minutes reflect that feedback was provided by specific members on the topic. LaVera Howard made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Kyle Cooper seconded the motion. Minutes passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Director's Report

Community Center Update

Staff presented the October project video and discussed changes that have occurred since the video was completed. In addition, staff shared videos of the outdoor pool floor being poured. The next major milestone is to pour the indoor pool floor in the next week. There was a work session on Super Pass where staff shared the pros and cons of the program from three different participation aspects (indoor and outdoor access; outdoor only access and no participation in 2020). There was great discussion among City Council and staff. At the end of the work session, Council directed staff to bring the item forward at the December 9 meeting for a vote. City Council will not take up the discussion of fees for the new community center until after the new year- tentatively scheduled for the first meeting in February. This will allow the new City Council members the opportunity to have input in establishing the fees.

Assistant Director's Report
Reports

Farmers' Market Year End Report

The end of season meeting for Farmers' Market vendors was held on November 14. Revenue and expenditures were down compared to 2018 due to cancelling the Wednesday market in 2019. Specific comparison details were included in the packet.

2019 Marketplace Improvements included:

- Redesign of landscaping bed at bridge
- Concrete pads for picnic tables from aquatic center on north and south ends
- Repaired gutter and down spouts
- Replaced/repared LED parking lot light
- Electrical repair for "Planting the Seed" (ongoing)

Upcoming Events

High School Visual Arts Competition

The opening reception for “23rd High School Visual Art Competition” is scheduled for Thursday, December 5th from 7 - 8:30 pm. This show features 127 high school students from 23 different area schools displaying 151 pieces of art. Live music from “The Band Anna KC” from 7 - 8pm. The menu for the evening will include: boneless chicken bites in buffalo, honey barbeque and original; seven-layer taco dip with tortilla chips; gooey butter cookies and Oreo truffles. Soft drinks and water will be served. The exhibit will be on display from December 5 – 28, 2019.

2020 Art Gallery Schedule

Staff included the 2020 schedule in the packet. A change for 2020 will be a “Wall of Fame Exhibit”. This will be the feature exhibit during the grand opening of the community center and will remain through the summer. This will ensure that art is displayed during the grand opening of the facility and allow staff the opportunity to adjust to the new facility before immediately hosting opening receptions. January – April will feature monthly exhibits, including the Heartland at the Irene B. French Community Center. The monthly receptions will resume again in September and conclude in December with the High School Visual Arts Competition.

Recreation Supervisor’s Report Reports

Halloween Happenings

The event was well attended. Staff estimated that there were 400 people were in attendance. Staff identified two concerns in planning for next year; plan for more candy and test the sound system. Due to technical issues with the sound system the costume contest was cancelled.

Upcoming Events

Mayor’s Tree Lighting Event

This event is scheduled for Friday, December 6th from 6:30 – 8:00pm. Volunteers will be needed for this event. Soup will be served at the Irene B. French Community Center. All participants will be asked to donate \$1 or a toy. Live music performed by Pic & Bow. Scott Diebold will be donating handmade gnome ornaments. The Carr family will be playing the part of Mr. and Mrs. Clause.

Breakfast with Santa

This event is scheduled for December 7th from 9 – 10:30 am. Volunteers will be needed for this event. Two Guys and a Grill will be providing breakfast. Activities include storytelling by Jonson County Library and gnome themed crafts.

Call for Musicians

The call has been released to one hundred fifty (150) musicians. To date, two (2) groups have responded. The deadline to respond is December 12th.

Aquatic Supervisor Report

Update

Staff has received two applications for the Aquatic Coordinator job opening. Tasks currently being completed include: identifying a vendor for pool chemical and developing an employee policy handbook for aquatics. Discussion about pool sanitation and process for testing and monitoring the system occurred. Each body of water is required to have its own filtration and chemical feeder system. In addition, there were questions asked about shower availability. Per code, entrance into a body of water per Johnson County Environmental must be through a shower facility. Due to capacity of the outdoor pool, deck showers will be available on the north end of the deck.

New Business

Election of Officers

With November being the last meeting of the calendar year, by-laws state that there must be an election of the board for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. There are no term limits.

LaVera Howard nominated Christopher Leitch to be Chairperson. Kathy Stull seconded the nomination; motion passed unanimously.

Katie Leary nominated Billy Crook to be Vice Chairperson. Thelma Fowler seconded the nomination; motion passed unanimously.

Inter-local Swim Team Agreement

Included in the packet was a memo outlining the letter of intent for this program. The intent of the agreement allows members of the host pool to gain admission, at no additional cost, to a non-hosting pool at any point during the day of a hosted swim meet at their home pool by producing their city issued membership card. Visits recorded as Swim Meet in the recreation software for the past ten (10) years indicated that there have been a total of 14 visits – the most were in 2015 with 6. Because swim meets are later in the afternoon / evening there has been little interest from surrounding communities to take advantage of this program.

Changes to the agreement staff would recommend would include:

1. Removal of JCPRD as operator of Roeland Park
2. Visitors to Merriam would receive an indelible stamp indicating access to outdoor aquatics. Discussion of this change indicated that some board members are unhappy with non-members being stamped on the hand. It could create an “us vs them feeling”.
3. Verbiage stating that if the outdoor pool is closed there would be no reciprocity of visits.

Park Board needs to provide City Council with a recommendation regarding participation in this agreement. Not knowing how City Council will side on Super Pass, it was discussed that this would provide the opportunity to monitor how Super Pass might work in a controlled environment, with limited visits on known days allowing staff time to plan, prepare and adjust between dates.

Christopher Leitch made a motion to approve the Inter-Local Swim Team Agreement. LaVera Howard seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

Billy Crook recognized Thelma Fowler for her eight years of service to the Park Board.

Staci Chivetta was appointed by City Council to begin her term in January 2020.

Adjournment

Thelma Fowler made a motion to adjourn at 6:59 pm. LaVera Howard seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.