

CITY OF MERRIAM PARK AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, August 25, 2020
6:00PM

Roll Call

The August meeting of the Merriam Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 6:00 pm, by Chairperson Christopher Leitch. Board members in attendance included: LaVera Howard, Katie Leary, Billy Croan, Kathy Stull and Staci Chivetta. Staff members in attendance included: Anna Slocum, Director; and Nicole Ritter, Customer Service Representative. Public member in attendance was Nancy Hupp, representing Merriam Parks, Recreation and Community Center Foundation. Grant Getzlow, notified staff of his absence. Due to COVID-19 gathering restrictions, other staff did not attend.

Public Comments

Nancy Hupp shared that due to the cancelation of several events, flag donations have suffered in 2020. This will impact staff's annual wish list request funded by the Foundation.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Kathy Stull made a motion to approve the February minutes. LaVera Howard seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Director's Report

COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

- The Wrist Band Policy discussed at the February meeting was not on the meeting agenda even though it had been tabled in February. After the February meeting, staff decided not to implement this policy based on feedback from the Advisory Board. This policy would have been too difficult to enforce since MCC is not a membership only facility.
- All special events have been cancelled through November due to COVID-19 gathering restrictions.
- July and August visit reports are shared in the meeting packet. Other area community centers are reporting drastic decline in daily visits at this time. In an effort to be good stewards of tax payer and patron resources, the hours of the Merriam Community Center have been reduced to reflect patron use times. The temporary hours are:
 - Monday 5:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
 - Tuesday - Friday 5:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
 - Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 - Sunday 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.There has also been a reduction of part-time staff hours with the change to the operating schedule. These hours will be reevaluated when the indoor pool opens.
- Charter memberships will be available until October 5, 2020. All Charter Memberships will now expire on October 5, 2021
- Landscaping and irrigation issues should be completed in September. Technology is a work in progress in some spaces. Training has occurred on how to operate the televisions and overhead music. The remaining furniture is scheduled for delivery on September 11. Artificial turf for the pool and courtyard continues to be outstanding and getting reliable updates from the vendor is a challenge for McCarthy.
- Removable bollards will be installed in the drop-off circle to help define the area and prevent patrons from driving through the plaza and courtyard.
- Plastering for the indoor pool will start soon. Water from the outdoor pool will be used to fill the indoor pool. This will provide a tremendous cost savings. Once complete, the outdoor pool will be drained for

paint repair. Start-up of the Desert Aire (HVAC) system is slated to begin September 8. Once water is balanced and staff trained, lap-swimming and water fitness programs will begin, allowing staff the opportunity to evaluate COVID-19 plans. Swim lessons and open swim are slated to begin in October.

- Staff has been working to finalize plans with a third-party insurance based membership program through American Special Health offering Active and Fit / Silver and Fit. The goal is to bring this program to City Council for approval in September. In addition, staff is researching a fourth program through Peer Fit. Currently, there are two agreements in place. Tivity offers SilverSneakers and Prime Fitness and Optum offers Renew Active. These programs work by reimbursing the City a set fee per visit each time a participating member swipes their membership card. There is a maximum amount per month per patron that is reimbursed for each program.
- COVID-19 protocol requires a mask to be worn unless actively exercising at which point, the mask can be removed. Cardio equipment is spaced out to meet CDC recommendations. There are social distancing markers on the floor for all areas. Alcohol wipes are provided for patrons to use to clean equipment after use. In addition, staff wipes down equipment along with other high touch areas in the building several times throughout the day.

New Business

Ward 1 Vacancy

- Kyle Cooper has moved out of Merriam and is no longer eligible to serve on Park Board. Staff is currently looking for a new candidate. There have been recent applicants that are currently being interviewed. If no interest, then a call for applicants will occur.
- Grant Getzlow, youth member, will not be able to attend most of the meetings due to a school conflict. Staff will have additional conversations to determine future availability. Members were encouraged to begin recruiting possible candidates. Youth members must be responsible to attend the monthly meetings. Ideally the candidate will be in High School but a Junior High student could be considered.

Other Business

- Kathy Stull inquired about an update of the art work. Originally staff was planning for an install at the end of August. This date has been extended to the end of September.
- Due to COVID-19 meeting restrictions many meetings were canceled in 2020. According to the by-laws, there is a minimum number of meetings per year. With programs canceled and the delay of the community center, staff had no business to bring forward for recommendation. Christopher Leitch stated that most of the work related to the opening of Merriam Community Center had been front-loaded in 2019 to allow staff time to start promotion. Staff provided timely updates as needed each month when meetings were canceled. The board discussed the productivity of meeting just to meet quota or continue with the regularly monthly schedule. Billy Croan made a motion to not make up past meetings but continue the remaining schedule in a distanced manner. If future meetings are impacted by COVID-19, consider ZOOM meetings, if there is business to discuss. Kathy Stull seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Katie Leary called for a motion to adjourn, Kathy Stull seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.