

CITY OF MERRIAM PARK AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 22, 2020
6:00PM

Roll Call

The September 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, Staci Chivetta and Evan Quinley. Staff members in attendance included: Anna Slocum, Director; and Nicole Ritter, Customer Service Representative. Due to COVID-19 gathering restrictions, other staff did not attend.

Public Comments

There was no one present for public comments.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

LaVera Howard made a motion to approve the August minutes. Katie Leary seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Director's Report

COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

- Since the last meeting the following has occurred: banquet chairs and monitor arms have been delivered; completion of various furniture punch list items and furniture in aquatics as well as the courtyard has been installed. A Plexiglas sneeze guard has been installed at the Welcome Desk using Velcro. This will allow for it to be removed or installed again if needed without causing damage to the desk. Site work changes include: sod in the location of what will be the future home of the Johnson County Library and artificial turf has been installed in the courtyard and next to the outdoor pool deck. Work will begin next week on the south end of the outdoor pool for terraced seating. Any dead plants will be replaced. In addition, all plants have a one-year warranty. Hermes continues to work through the site planting with a goal to be complete by the end of the month. The art work for the courtyard is anticipated to ship the end of September.
- Staff is preparing for the indoor pool to be available for a soft opening, allowing staff to evaluate COVID-19 protocols. Reservations will be required for swimming laps and water walking. During open swim, the capacity will be 75 patrons. The remaining issues to finalize opening are safety related. Monitoring social media engagement, video response is significantly higher than pictures. Staff will begin to incorporate more videos in posts.
- The building is in the punch list stage of construction. Crews are fixing items that did not quite meet expectation. The walking track will be closed Thursday, September 24 – Friday, September 25 and Monday, September 28 – Thursday, October 1 to install more lighting along the perimeter. This section of lighting was added when the track was dark after a cloudy day. In addition, more paint and graphics will be installed in the gymnasium, walking track and locker rooms in the coming weeks.

MONTHLY COMMUNITY CENTER MEMBERSHIP REPORT

- Membership sales have increased by one hundred compared to August. Staff is anticipating sales to increase once an announcement of when the indoor pool will open. To assist with membership sales, a corporate membership policy was created during the establishment of operations in 2019. This will allow Merriam businesses to provide an incentive for their employees to purchase memberships at the resident rate. Once the business signs the agreement, employees only need to show proof of employment, either by a paystub or identification badge to be eligible for resident rates. Currently, three businesses have completed the process. Staff is creating a full educational / marketing campaign for this opportunity. A news story will be included in

Highlights and a letter will be inserted in business license renewals and digital signage is being created. Once the digital signage is complete, staff will share with Park Board. Staff has re-engaged Advent Health to determine if there is the opportunity to partner for various programs.

- The September visit report is included in this packet. Visits have been slightly up from this time last month. The center tours have declined since August. There has been an increase in Silver Sneakers visits as well as Renew Active. Staff continues to work on acquiring one additional insurance based membership and has contacted PeerFit.

FARMERS' MARKET MONTHLY REPORT

- There is one weekend left of the 2020 Farmers' Market season. Vendor numbers are down this year compared to last year due to COVID-19 restrictions. The number of shoppers is relatively the same as last year even with all entertainment being cancelled. Ingrid Berg and the Farmers' Market supervisors were all new to their positions. They did a great job establishing COVID-19 protocols and ensuring implementation.

Tim Murphy Art Gallery Schedule

- There will be no reception for the upcoming show "Two Men and a Brush". This exhibit runs from October 1 - 31 and features two local artists. The artists for next year have been selected and staff is working to finalize the schedule.

New Business

Youth Member Appointment

- The youth member position has been filled with the Mayor appointing Evan Quinley.

Other Business

Ward 1 Vacancy

- The candidate for this position has passed on the opportunity, so staff is promoting the vacancy of Ward One. For those who have terms expiring at the end of 2020, please remember to inform the Mayor of your intent to serve for another two-year term.

Meeting

- Due to staff vacation, the October packet will be available one week early; approximately by October 15th. Upcoming agenda items will include a review of fees, Farmers' Market schedule and annual election. There will not be a meeting in December.

Adjournment

Evan Quinley called for a motion to adjourn. LaVera Howard seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.