

CITY OF MERRIAM PARK AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 26, 2021
6:00PM

Roll Call

The August meeting of the Merriam Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 6:00 pm, by Chairperson Staci Chivetta. Board members in attendance included: Katie Leary, Billy Croan, Kathy Stull, Tony Scott, Evan Quinley and Christopher Leitch. LaVera Howard notified staff of her absence due to illness. 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

No public in attendance

Approval of Meeting Minutes

LaVera Howard sent an email concerning the approval of the November meeting minutes. She stated her concern regarding election protocol, recommending that at some point in the future the Board review by-laws to better define the procedure. Several board members weighed in on this recommendation. Staff stated that this will be added to a future agenda for discussion. Christopher Leitch made a motion to approve the November minutes with no corrections or additions. Billy Croan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Director's Report

COMMUNITY CENTER CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Significant progress has occurred in the completion of outstanding tasks associated with the construction project. There are several items that will not be completed until spring (additional ADA concrete work, outdoor pool patch and paint). The project team is now tracking a deficiency list which has less than 15 items remaining. BASK is still not lit. The first possible solution that was tried switched the lighting from the little structure to the big with no change to the parking structure feature. Staff is now working with Palmer Electric and the Trellis lighting vendor to determine a second possible solution. Last week, staff was able to answer additional questions from Palmer but a timeline for completion is unknown at this time.

Shortly after the indoor pool opened in October, staff noticed that paint was peeling on the east wall of the natatorium. A few weeks later, a sticky residue appeared along the east wall. A core sample from the wall revealed there was no moisture barrier which allowed the Desert Aire heating & cooling unit for the natatorium to pull moisture from the wall causing the paint to peel. While the core sample did not reveal where the residue was originating, it set in motion demolition of the drywall on the east and north walls so a vapor barrier could be installed. After a core sample was taken from the parapet of the roof and the roof deck, the source of the sticky residue was determined to be the fire retardant from the plywood installed on the parapet. The roof deck had the proper moisture barrier and showed no signs of moisture penetration. It was determined that an exposed beam provided direct access to the parapet causing the fire retardant to liquefy and streak the wall. To prevent future residue issues, the beam was wrapped in a moisture barrier, and will be encased in the same cement board that will replace the original drywall. A special TNEMEC fiberglass paint is being applied as the wall finish. This paint does not off-gas like the original which allows for the finish to be applied during normal business hours. The work is scheduled to be completed prior to the expiration of the current health order which is set to expire January 31.

The Board of County Commissioners will meet on Thursday to discuss the health order. On their agenda is an item to allow the order to expire or extend it for an additional 45 days. Staff will closely follow the meeting. If extended, those members that suspended their membership will be contacted alerting them that their membership will remain suspended. The expiration date will be extended by the additional number of days of the order. If the locker room closure of the order is allowed to expire, suspended members will be reactivated and notified of their new expiration date.

Katie Leary asked why some facilities are still operating their pools under the health order. While the Health Department was willing to overlook the showering requirement prior to entering the pool, staff identified too many other liabilities associated with operating a pool without a shower that put the City at risk. Because of this decision, members were given the opportunity to suspend their memberships with days added on to their expiration. During a suspension, there is no access to the facility.

2021 Projects

This year there are four projects slated to be completed in addition to events and operations of MCC.

1. Chatlain Swing Replacement – With the safety surface failing, replacement of the surface also provides the opportunity to update the swings to the new structure. It is a goal with this replacement to consider adding a more inclusive option. Currently, staff is working to develop a budget with three options. Project time frame is to bring the options back to Park Board in February for recommendation based on available budget. The three options being considered are:

1. Traditional post swing
2. Traditional post swing + Friendship Swing
3. Traditional post swing + We Go Swing

Project timeline is to demolish existing swing in March with the new swing ready for poured-in-place surfacing the first part of May.

2. Bench at MCC – Staff have received several requests for additional seating from the Parking Structure to Courtyard. A bench matching the existing site furniture has been ordered and will be installed on the southwest side of the building by flagpole / natatorium south wall. This location was developed in conjunction with the architects. Bench will be installed by Public Works.
3. Banner Replacement – This is an annual expense and is a joint effort with Public Works. Replacement depends on inventory and condition of existing banners. If it is decided that the majority of the banners are in good condition, staff would like to update the Marketplace banners.
4. Develop a Veteran Banner Program – This was a request from a resident several years ago in an effort to recognize our local heroes over Memorial Day. The request came in the midst of design and construction of the Community Center. Over the course of the next several months, staff will be researching other programs. Suggestions and recommendations of possible program designs will be brought to Park Board. This group will make a recommendation to City Council on how to implement this program. The goal would be to implement by Memorial Day 2022.

Membership Update

Included in the packet are the reports associated with membership sales and visits for December as well as an annual recap. There were 77 memberships sold in December taking the annual total to 671. Over the course of the year there were 66 cancellations and 30 suspended memberships leaving a total of 575 active memberships as of December 31. Through 2020 there were 12,497 member visits; 560-day pass visits and 1,113 tours. Staff will continue to track and report this data each month as it will provide insight as to the comfort level of patrons returning to a “normal” routine. Peer fit has been approved and will begin February 1, 2021.

Tim Murphy Art Gallery Update

Included in the packet is the evaluation for the High School Visual Arts Competition. With the new hanging system, staff is evaluating display options for this show since many of these pieces are not framed. There were daily repairs made to the hanging system constructed by students / teachers. While ideally it would be great if everything was framed, this is an expensive proposition. Staff is hoping to develop a hanging technique to share with teachers to eliminate the many repairs required during this show. This was the smallest number of works submitted and accepted in recent history due to COVID. Staff is preparing for that to be the case in 2021 with the uncertainty of in-person attendance in the fall. Overall, staff did an excellent job ensuring the program occurred. In future years, the total number of works accepted will range between 80 -90 making it a more prestigious event.

Heartland Artist Competition will be March 6 – 27. The juror has provided the list of accepted works. There were 84 artists that submitted 247 works; 80 works have been accepted and artists have been notified. In person judging will occur the week of February 15. A virtual awards presentation will be posted to Facebook® on March 6.

New Business

2020 City of Merriam Year End Video

Each year the City of Merriam produces a recap of the work completed. The video was debuted last night at City Council. It was shared publicly through our social media platforms today.

Special Event Discussion

Staff is started the planning process involved for 2021 events. It is not appropriate to move forward with Turkey Creek Festival for this year based on current COVID cases and restrictions. Staff is developing a plan to roll out a series of small special events in July as a kick off to our annual special events.

July is Parks and Recreation Month – Each Friday there would be an event – with the exception of July 4th weekend –

- July 9 – Party in the Park – scaled down – no food – family pods to encourage social distancing
- July 16 – Late swim – Dive in Movie
- July 23 – Party in the Park
- July 31 – Back to school bash – late swim

The pool events will be after hours – free to members – with a registration fee charged for non-members. Staff is planning to continue planning for Turkey Creek Car and Motorcycle Show and Merriam Drive. The decision to proceed with these events will be evaluated as the year progresses. In addition, staff is evaluating the possibility of a “reopening event” at MCC. Stay tuned for more details.

Suggestions were made for events geared to households with no children. If utilizing the library’s grass space, is permission might be required now that the land has officially transferred ownership from the City to the library.

Other Business

Public Art Committee Appointment

Staff has recommended Kathy Stull to be a member of the Johnson County Public Art Committee for the artist selection process for the Merriam Branch library project. The committee should begin selection process in late spring / summer. Kathy will provide updates to the Board as the process begins.

Flags 4 Freedom

The Park Recreation Community Center Foundation meets February 10. Preliminary conversations have occurred on how Flags 4 Freedom could occur in a scaled down version. This organization helps raise funds for our Membership Scholarship Program here in Merriam. One goal is to work with the group to develop a succession plan to ensure the longevity of the event. If Board members know someone looking to get involved in an event, this would be a great opportunity as it is a unique event that has a long standing history in Merriam. If someone is interested, contact Anna Slocum.

Pledge of Allegiance

Billy Croan proposed including the Pledge of Allegiance in future meetings of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. After discussion occurred, the board did not decide to implement this change.

Adjournment

Christopher Leitch called for a motion to adjourn. Billy Croan seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.