Park Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday September 3, 2019
6:01 pm

CALL TO ORDER FOLLOWED BY THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Roll Call: Jim Stout, Connie Schrombeck, Dorothy Eich. Also present; Public Works Director Kevin Gray, Parks Director Mindi Arnold-Buchler

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve August 2019 meeting minutes was made by Connie Schrombeck and seconded by Jim Stout.

REPORTS

Parks Director, Mindi Arnold-Buchler updated the committee on park programs and events. The 66th Annual Kiddie Parade and Festival were successful. Lowell Labor Day Parade Committee helped make this festival a spectacular one. With help from the Street Department employees these events were better than usual. Committee members; Dorothy, Carol and Connie were thanked for the participation in judging the Kiddie Parade. We had over 70 Kiddie Parade participants and a few hundred people attend the festival.

Mindi reported the Oktoberfest, Halloween Hoopla and Barktoberfest are the next community events scheduled. The Parade of Lights scheduled for November 30th. Mindi discussed some of the events that the Chamber of Commerce are trying to bring to town during this time. She stated that Aaron Pollock, chamber member is in charge of Wintefest activities this year.

Aside from community events, Mindi touched on fall and winter park programming. She referenced the newest edition of the Recreation Connection newsletter which was handed out to the committee.

Mindi discussed the department partnering up with Blue Sombrero, a Dicks Sporting Goods sponsored program to assist with managing registration and communication with the soccer leagues. She did report that this may be the solution to the running the parks soccer league however it is not designed to help manage the recreation end of parks programming. Mindi hopes to bring park software with online registration and credit card processing to this department in the future. She believes it will help our busy families register and stay involved with the parks system.
Park Maintenance Reports

Mindi reported the tennis courts at Liberty Park were power washed. She stated they are not usable as tennis courts anymore but the community does use them for other activities. She believes these courts are beyond repair and recommends they are removed here in the near future.

Regular mowing, trimming and garbage removal continue in the parks. Mindi informed the board that she had discussed garbage cans with the Republic representative at the Kiddie Parade. She noted that she had asked the previous town manager to discuss adding additional cans in the parks when the garbage contract was reviewed. The Republic representative stated that other communities do this and provide a dumpster onsite for daily emptying of the cans. Mindi stated she will speak with the new town manager about bringing this suggestion into our park system. Mindi believes this would be a good amenity to the park system. Kevin stated he will look into this as he believed the town just approved the garbage contract.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

Connie Shrombeck stated she was discussing bringing a community garden to Freedom Park with Lowell Garden Clubs involvement. Mindi suggested getting the details together and attending a future Freedom Park meeting to discuss with the committee. Mindi asked Connie to thank her club for helping with weeding at the gazebo last week too. Mindi also stated the Lowell Garden Club is very present in the community and pointed out some of the areas they have improved and maintain throughout the community. The other committee members were surprised to find this information out. Mindi told them the garden club is always looking for new members to help. Connie hoped to have this idea come to life in the Spring of 2020. Mindi stated she knew grant opportunities for community gardens exist. She believed it would also be a good idea to get the local food pantry’s involvement so they could have fresh produce to hand out. Discussion followed about future farmers markets, movies in the parks and concerts in the parks and utilization of Liberty Park for community events. The next scheduled meeting for the Lowell Park Advisory Committee will be October 1, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

Connie made the motion to adjourn at 6:42pm and Jim seconded this motion.