

The February 15, 2024 meeting of the Glenwood Park Board was called to order by Chairman Randy Romens.

Roll Call: Randy Romens, Jim Henderson, Malcolm McCue, Vanessa Covington, Park Superintendent Ron Mattox, Mayor Angie Winquist, City Administrator Amber Farnan, Councilman Mike Lines.

Motion by Covington, 2<sup>nd</sup> by McCue to approve the agenda, claims, and minutes of the January 18, 2024 meeting. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Diana Burchett of the YMCA joined the meeting to ask permission to use the park for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. This will take place on the morning of March 30. Mattox stated that, depending on the weather, the restrooms may not be opened yet. He will make sure to mow down, if necessary, pick up limbs and sticks, etc. Motion by Covington, 2<sup>nd</sup> by McCue to allow the YMCA to use the park for the Easter Egg Hunt on March 30. Ayes 4, Nays 0

The board discussed the opportunity to purchase a used mower from the cemetery. It is a 2015 Skag diesel and we could purchase it for \$5000. Mattox said it is better than our Kubota and he would like to go with all Skag mowers, but is it worth it to spend \$5000 on a used mower right now? After some discussion, the board decided that we prefer to wait on a mower purchase and continue to use what we currently have.

Next the board discussed the Camp Host position. We are all in agreement that we want to continue to have a camp host. We do need to go over the job description to see if any changes need to be made. There was some discussion on allowing vacation days and also the need to be more specific regarding duties. The past two years we have had some issues with the restrooms not being kept clean. Farnan will provide us with the current job description and we will go over it next month. We will then need to start advertising for the position.

The board had a fairly lengthy discussion regarding campground rates. Romens recently talked to a construction worker who told him that our current rates are pretty low. He also stated that it was nice that we no longer allowed tent camping. We did raise the rates last year, but after looking at rates from other area campgrounds, the board decided that we should raise the rates again. As it is, we do not profit much after the cost of maintenance and utilities. The board decided on these rates for the 2024 camping season:

Sites 1-12 - \$40/nightly, \$200/weekly, \$600/monthly

Senior Discount – Change the age to 62+, \$35/nightly, \$190/weekly, \$550/monthly

Sites 13-20 - \$30/nightly, \$150/weekly, \$500/monthly

Motion by Covington, 2<sup>nd</sup> by McCue to approve the campground rate changes for 2024. Ayes 4, Nays 0

The small pond area will need to be seeded this spring. Mattox stated that he plans to rent a yard rake to rough up the dirt and drill the seed. He estimates the cost to be right around \$1000 for the equipment rental and the grass seed. Henderson asked if the area needed any more dirt. Mattox stated that it is actually looking pretty good. There are a few very small spots that hold some water, but the grass should help with that.

The board discussed where the new dock should be placed. Mattox thinks it should go on the north end of the lake. That is probably the easiest place to move it in and out. McCue does not like this placement. He feels it is too congested and too shallow at the north end. His suggestion is to put it on the side near where we pump the water in. After some discussion we decided to table this until the next meeting. In the meantime, the board members can walk around the lake to look at different locations.

Farnan has been looking into the purchase of a computer for Mattox. He currently just has to use his phone. Along with the computer we would need a hotspot. Mattox said they have never been able to get service in his building or most of the park. He thinks we would likely still need a booster. Farnan will continue to do some research and talk to US Cellular. Covington suggested making sure we are able to try out the hotspot/booster or whatever they suggest before we make any purchase or sign a contract. We need to make sure it is truly going to work.

Next on the agenda was the skate park. This week Mattox removed the old 1/4 pipe because it was in such poor condition. Romens provided the board with a bid on new skate park equipment. A new 4'x8' quarterpipe would be approximately \$5,850 plus a significant amount for shipping. There was some discussion on how much the skate park is used. Mattox says he does see kids there. McCue questioned spending this kind of money without really knowing how much it is used and what is really wanted/needed by those users. He also said this would be a good opportunity for some community activism. The original skate park was made possible by young people raising the funds for it many years ago. Maybe we could get skate park users to do that again. Henderson stated that if we are going to make improvements we need to do them right. Covington wondered if we will hear complaints now that the old equipment has been removed. Ultimately the board decided to table this discussion for now.

The question has been brought up the last couple months of whether or not we should change the time of the park board meetings. Newly appointed councilman Lines is going to be our liaison and he said the Thursday morning time works for him. Mattox also prefers the morning meeting. It was decided that we will leave the time and day as is.

The Rec Agreements have been an ongoing discussion/dilemma for a long time. The board has been wanting to change them and make them more specific to each club/user. Romens has spent some time on this, but we have never gotten it completed. Farnan stated that we have not been getting paid the user fees because we haven't had the clubs sign the agreement. Covington suggested that we need to have all the agreements sent out at a specific time each year. For example, all agreements would be sent by January 15. Then it is just done and it is the responsibility of the clubs to get the payments sent in during their playing season. Romens said he will continue to work on this, but we probably will need to have a separate meeting for this project. This meeting may involve someone from each club/organization. We need to make sure these clubs are updating us with a contact person(s) and providing Mattox with their schedules.

Covington said there is not a lot to report about disc golf since last month. Things are still moving along and there will be another disc golf meeting on Monday, February 19 at 6:30. Mattox stated that it looks like we will have some money in our budget to put towards this project. Previously it looked like all the funds would come from outside sources. Covington said she will provide two bids to the board next month for approval.

After our discussion last month regarding having no restroom facilities in the park shop, Mattox reached out to Travis Wright to see if he had any suggestions or what it would take to make this possible. The board has previously tried to solve this issue, but there was never a good, cost-effective way to do it. Mayor Winqvist said she knew we would like to build a new shop. She checked into using GeoBonds for this, but our proposed location at the baseball fields is considered recreation property and not parks property and therefore not eligible for GeoBonds.

Mayor Winqvist reminded us that in the past, the county has given us money for projects. She said this is something we need to ask for every year. Romens said he will attend the next BOS meeting and request money to help with the lighting project.

Superintendent Report: Mattox stated that the truck will need to go to the shop for some repairs. He asked about RAGBRAI and if we needed to make the camp bathrooms/showers available. The board agrees that we do not need to do this. There will be other facilities provided by RAGBRAI that they can use.

- a. Donated Playground Equipment – Mattox stated that this cannot be used. After a lot of effort to find information, we cannot get the needed replacement parts for this to be safe and insured. Winqvist said she will talk to Farnan about contacting the Abbot family to let them know. Romens will also talk to Shawn Koehler.
- b. Solar Light Project – The Ray Thomas fund has awarded us with \$30,000 for solar lights around the lake. Mattox and Romens have been doing some research on this project. To do this it will likely be around \$100,000 to put lights around the entire lake. The Ray Thomas funds have to be used by June 30. Romens proposed that we start with lights around one side and then work on procuring funds for the rest as we move forward. McCue asked what we are solving by putting these lights in and wondered if we should be doing this. Romens stated that it is for safety and beautification. McCue would rather see money go towards replacing the old fountain in the lake. Winqvist reminded the board that we had provided the Ray Thomas foundation with a list of projects and they chose solar lighting from that list. Romens and Mattox will continue to work on bids for this.
- c. Museum Shelter – Stephen Hunt from the museum wants to take over the reservations for the museum shelter. This shelter does belong to the museum, but reservations have always been done through the park just like the other reservations. It seems to make sense that we continue to keep it this way. Winqvist will talk to Hunt about it.

Chairman Report: Romens stated that the Trails Board got the two bridges installed last week. There is still work to be done before they are open and usable.

The meeting was adjourned.

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Vanessa Covington, Secretary

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Randy Romens, Chairperson