



Minutes of Parks Committee Meeting
Tuesday, September 12th, 2023
Council Chambers
5:00PM

Those in attendance were:

Judd Hart, Chair
Stephanie Jones, Staff Liaison
Tom Farmer, Mayor
Frank Baptist
Bill Donner

Steve Brown
Jeff Morrow
Jeff Hamm
Ann Spencer-Cole

The Parks Committee met on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, in the Council Chambers and agreed to the following.

Chairman Hart moved on to the approval of the October 10, 2023, minutes. Alderman Hamm made a motion to accept the minutes. Alderman Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chairman Hart moved on to the ActiveNet Fees – Jones reported that ActiveNet is our recreation software. When it was initially set up in 2014, the City decided to absorb the processing fees. Mayor Farmer tasked the Department with looking at areas to save in the budget, and this is an area that could save the City roughly \$70,000 per year. This number does depend on how many transactions are being processed. Jones stated that we would like the customer to absorb the fee. For cash and/or check it would be 2.4%, for credit card it would be 3.6%, and for an online transaction it would be \$6.08%. Chairman Hart stated that this would be done through the software system so there would not be an additional setup. Chairman Hart and Mayor Farmer stated that other departments were already do this.

Chairman Hart moved on to City Observed Holidays – Jones reported that the Mayor sponsored this item at the last Council meeting so this is a follow-up for the Department. Jones reiterated that the Parks Department will observe holidays the same as City Hall. In the past, we have not done this. Mayor Farmer stated that this is putting everyone on the same schedule so there is no confusion, and it makes it easier for bookkeeping.

Chairman Hart moved on to the Annual Report Review – Chairman Hart stated that Jones had sent this out in a separate email for review. Chairman Hart said that it looks like the numbers continue to go up and we have had another successful year. Jones highlighted that a new piece of software detects cell phone pings that can tell us how many visitors are in the park. There is a

20% average increase of visitors from 2022 to 2023. Lyle Park saw an increase and Hooked on Fishing saw about an 80% increase in visitors, which we believe has to do with renovations. Jones stated we have had a good year and have seen a lot more foot traffic within the park system and believe the Mountain Bike Park will increase traffic as well.

Chairman Hart moved on to Other – Jones stated that there is a resolution in the packet which relates to an MOU with Farmers Bank & Trust. Jones reported that she, Mayor Farmer, and his team met about purchasing a stage for City events. The stage would be on hydraulics, which two people could put up in about 30 minutes, versus the stage we currently have. This stage would be great for things we have downtown. Farmers Bank & Trust is willing to pay for half of the stage, and this would include their advertising and sponsorship on the stage. Their portion would be \$95,037.50. Their first invoice would be due at the end of the year for \$15,000.00 and the remainder would be paid out through 2024. Jones stated that this is budgeted in 2024. Mayor Farmer stated that they brought this idea to us and believes that it will be a great addition to the Parks program. Jones stated that the price does include delivery and a training course that includes the trainer's expense. Jones reported that the lead time on this stage is 7-8 months. Alderman Hamm made a motion to move forward with the resolution. Alderman Morrow seconded the motion. Motion passed.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.