

City of Aurora Park Board
Aurora City Hall - City Council Chambers
City of Aurora, Missouri
2 W. Pleasant St.
Aurora, Missouri 65605
Thursday, May 18, 2023 6:00 PM

5/18/2023 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Deb Dillman called the meeting to order at 5:59PM.

2. ROLL CALL

President Deb Dillman *Present*

Vice President Nikki Kennedy *Present*

Board Member David Brammell *Present*

Board Member Cody Murray *Absent*

Board Member James Pettit *Absent*

Board Member Trevor Williams *Present*

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Member David Brammell made a motion to Approve Park Board Minutes from April 20, 2023. Vice President Nikki Kennedy seconded the motion. Motion passed with votes documented as follows:

President Deb Dillman *Aye*

Vice President Nikki Kennedy *Aye*

Board Member David Brammell *Aye*

Board Member Cody Murray *Absent*

Board Member James Pettit *Absent*

Board Member Trevor Williams *Aye*

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.I Pop-Up in the Park

Vice President Nikki Kennedy proposed the idea of having Pop Ups in the Parks, encouraging more people in the community to be involved and enjoy the City Parks. Her ideas ranged from having cotton candy and bubbles or kites and popsicles, or other ideas that would be inexpensive. She also proposed involving local businesses to sponsor these activities. The idea was well received by the Park Board members present and a first Pop Up in the Park was scheduled for Sunday, June 25, at 2PM in White Park. City Manager Jon Holmes recommended having a Facebook Page specifically for Aurora Parks and Recreation to keep the community informed of any projects or activities going on in the City's parks.

4.II Basketball Rims at White Park

President Deb Dillman shared with the Park Board that certain members of the community have spoken with her expressing their concern about the condition of the basketball rims at White Park. Interim Parks and Recreation Director Travis Wittenborn explained how vandalism continues to be a problem at City parks and that the metal rims have proven to be more durable against the vandalism and rough play that goes on. The Parks Department is seeking solutions for the destruction and researching more durable materials to put up in the parks.

4.III Benches at Crosby/Oak

President Deb Dillman shared more concerns and thoughts of the community members she had spoken with, pertaining to a lack of benches available at City Parks near the Playground areas. City Manager Jon Holmes responded by saying benches are going up in some of the Parks that have been sponsored by individuals of the community and installed by City of Aurora staff members. President Deb Dillman would like to see one additional bench added to each City Park to begin with. City Manager Jon Holmes will discuss with Interim Parks Director Travis Wittenborn to see if the current Parks and Recreation Department budget would have sufficient funds to make that purchase.

4.IV Budget/Fundraising

President Deb Dillman then turned the discussion to the budget for activities/projects. City Manager Jon Holmes recommended putting together a list of these activities and projects with projected costs to then be presented to City Council and possibly added to the upcoming year's Parks and Recreation Department budget. He then encouraged the Park Board to form committees of its members who would work collectively to research costs and plan activities.

City Manager Jon Holmes has been discussing with Jack Muench the possibility of the Park Board creating a foundation through the Community Foundation of the Ozarks. This would then allow the Aurora Park Board Foundation to use the funds donated for the projects and activities the City of Aurora Park Board would like to see happen. Council Liaison Theresa Pettit interjected that the City of Aurora Park Board had previously been set up as a foundation with the Community Foundation of the Ozarks. She will connect President Deb Dillman with her contact at CFO to confirm the Aurora Park Board's status with them and how the City of Aurora Park Board can proceed.

4.V Athlete Volunteer Day

Interim Parks and Recreation Department Director Travis Wittenborn shared plans for the Athlete Volunteer Day, scheduled for May 19. The original plans included painting City Park pavilions and facilities but may have to be altered depending on the weather. The Parks and Recreation Department has a list of jobs that can be completed despite poor weather.

4.VI Summer Meeting Schedule

President Deb Dillman then discussed Light the Night, scheduled for June 17, 2023, and the possibility of the City of Aurora Park Board having a booth or table to encourage participation within the community and share information of upcoming Park events and the Rec Center. It was also decided that the City of Aurora Park Board would have their regularly scheduled meeting on June 15, 2023, to share ideas of events and to finalize plans for the first Pop Up in the Park, scheduled for June 25, 2023.

4.VII Staff Updates

Interim Parks and Recreation Director Travis Wittenborn gave a brief update on the City parks - several trees in parks will need to come down. the Parks Department hired two seasonal employees to help with the summer work, the pool lifeguards have been hired for the pool and are being trained for certification, and the diving boards for the pool have been ordered and are ready to install.

City Manager Jon Holmes then shared an update on the grant the City of Aurora is seeking to create walking trails between Robinson School and Crosby Park. The process is long and tedious, but the City Manager and several members of City staff are working diligently for this \$500K grant.

Council Liaison Theresa Pettit then concluded with a brief update on the progress the Design team, City Council, and the team from SAAP Design is making on the Rec Center.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Nikki Kennedy made a motion to adjourn the Park Board meeting at 7:08PM. Board Member David Brammell seconded the motion. Motion passed with votes documented as follows:

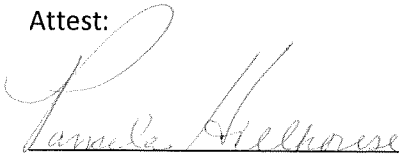
President Deb Dillman	Aye
Vice President Nikki Kennedy	Aye
Board Member David Brammell	Aye
Board Member Cody Murray	Absent
Board Member James Pettit	Absent
Board Member Trevor Williams	Aye

Approved:



Deb Dillman, President

Attest:



Pamela Hillhouse, Secretary