



Recreation & Arena Commission Meeting
March 11, 2024
Arena Conference Room

Attendance: Sheila Colson, Steve Trepanier, Dick Clough; Dave Colson, Dave Camire, Lexy VanBinsbergen, Dale Bickford, Lauren Krans; Kevin Barry

1. Public Input
None.

2. Accept February Minutes
Dave Colson motioned to accept. Dave Camire seconded.

3. Review Revenue & Expense Reports
Dale Bickford motioned to accept. Dave Colson seconded

4. Gymnasium Bleacher Design Options
Director Krans updated the group about a recent meeting with DPW and we will be taking a collaborative approach moving forward with the CIP projects. Expect a fall install for the bleachers, anticipating installation during the month of September. The bleacher order will need to be submitted to Hussey within the next several weeks. Council meeting on March 19th @ 6:00pm to vote on the supplemental funding for the second tier of bleachers. New bleachers will be retractable with ADA compliance and handrails. Our preference would be to mirror the bleachers at the Arena with red and blue for consistency. Full support of the commission for this color scheme. Director Krans asked the group to think about any project to repurpose the old wood from the bleachers.

5. Senior Member Updates

Assistant Director Trepanier reviewed several options for next steps regarding the Senior Membership update:

1. Eliminate non-resident memberships completely. When a non-resident membership expires, they can no longer renew.
2. Grandfather in current non-residents and do not allow new non-resident memberships going forward.
3. Re-do membership structure to have no rolling memberships for non-residents. Create a separate membership for non-residents for fitness classes that have one start and one end date.
 - a. Add classes specific for Rochester residents.



Director Krans reviewed the current senior membership is 60% residents/40% non-residents. Lexy VanBinsbergen suggested possibly allowing residents to have an earlier registration date. Dave Camire inquired how our programs are marketed to the 55+ Rochester residents. He also stated that the City is currently supplementing surrounding communities that do not provide services. Dale Bickford inquired about why we would want to decrease numbers, could we consider increasing programs classes to allow for more access. Director Krans indicated that we could add more classes and they would continue to be filled. Director Krans stated that the department would like to increase Rochester resident participation in 50+ program. Dale Bickford suggested that nonresidents be allowed to sign up for 50+ programs only after residents based on availability. He suggested that if available, non residents register for a class and pay a session based, market rate. Pickleball memberships will be separate for non-residents. Director Krans stated that staff will take this direction and craft a formal proposal for the April meeting.

6. Public Pool Policy Support

Director Krans provided a copy of the current Pool Use Standard Operating Procedure (SOP_ outlining current practices and highlight any proposed changes.

The SOP now includes a section outlining outside agency or organizational usage. Priority will always be given to Recreation programs and public access. Significant change to youth attending pools on their own will now need to provide proof of residency and age. We will now require that they show their school ID or infinite campus as proof of residency. We will work with schools to get this message out. Home School students could have something similar or a pass for usage. Director Krans reviewed the posted Public Pool Rule of no floatation devices for review. Lexy VanBinsbergen indicated that Portsmouth pool rules include no flotation devices or outside devices partially because of contaminants as well as faulty equipment. Director Krans also reviewed the change to the rule of no more than 2 children under 42" with an adult. Director Krans stated that a final document will be brought to the April meeting.

7. Player Performance Area Updates

Assistant Director Trepanier updated the group that the ribbon cutting ceremony was postponed until the fall. The area has been painted white.

8. Recreation Master Plan Update

Director Krans mentioned that there is not a Master Plan meeting this month and reminded the group about the surveys.



9. Other

Director Krans informed the group that Lilac Family Fun Fest will be on Sat. July 13th with a rain date of Sun July 14th. Volunteers are appreciated.

The original funding main source for the proposed Pickleball Courts was a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Director Krans has discussed with Finance and to eliminate time constraints on the project, the funding source will be changed and the CDBG funding will no longer be part of the project. Director Krans explained that Assistant Director Trepanier is meeting with Public Works this week to roll out the scope of work supported by the Commission for renovating the existing 6 Community Center Tennis Courts into multi use courts with adjustable nets.

Nancy Loud playground is currently closed and the building has zero occupancy at this time. Currently doing a structural analysis to determine next steps of building. Ideally, we would like the pool, playground and park to stay at this location.

CIP Update:

Planning Board on March 4th. Recreation and Arena FY25 Capital Improvement Projects were ranked as follows: The Arena Dehumidifier was ranked 17/95 total projects, the Squamanagonic Bridge was ranked as 51/95, the Arena Facility Plans were 54/95. Director Krans reminded the group that these rankings are recommendations to the City Manager.

CIT program

Director Krans informed the group of the new Counselor in Training Program that will be piloted this summer. The Rec Counselor in Training program will be an educational and recreational program to help teens develop the skills and attributes necessary to be a successful summer camp counselor. The program will focus on team building, service projects, and outdoor activities. Lexy VanBinsbergen suggested offering CPR training and first level lifeguard training.

Next Meeting: April 8, 2024, 6:00pm Arena Conference Room