

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
May 10, 2023

**Call to Order**

Doris called meeting to order at 5:33pm.

Nancy Manlove	<i>present</i>	Thomas Huebner	<i>present</i>
Edward Lock	<i>present</i>		
Heather Tuggle	<i>present</i>	Michelle Mitcham	
Lynda Schubring	<i>present</i>		
Ashley Brown	<i>present</i>	Isaac Recinos	<i>present</i>
Doris Michalak	<i>present</i>	Sebastian Marquis	<i>present</i>
Rachel Beazley	<i>present</i>	Robert Basford	<i>present</i>
Robyn Taylor	<i>present</i>	Maria Thorne	<i>present</i>

**Approval of Minutes from 3-8-23**

A motion was made to approve the minutes by Thomas and was seconded by Ashley.

**Citizen Comments**

None

**Items for individual consideration**

**a. Founders' Day Closeout**

Isaac began by saying that the issues that had been brought up from last year's event were all addressed and improved at this year's event.

The layout of the site was discussed. Staff is always working on finding a balance between setting things up too far apart and too close together. They would like to move the Chili cookoff area closer to the center. The food truck vendors were unhappy about being so far away from the main event area, so staff will work on moving them closer for next time. The main issue is their power requirements and the noise from the generators. We may look into setting them up in a circle configuration with tables in the center in the Post parking lot next year. Most of those food trucks are coming to the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration.

The weather caused some people to hold off on purchasing wristbands until the day of the event. Many attendees were asking where things were located. Others were asking where the ticket booth was, or what time things were taking place. It would be good if there were regular updates and announcements throughout the day and more signage and maps. Next year we will combine the wristband/ticket booth and the information booth, and they be located up front.

Isaac talked about the food tent, moving food to Post, cold water for volunteers and having additional trashcans. He also talked about the street closures and barricades needing to have water in them because people were just moving them. There was a person driving through the event in a golf cart. Maybe signs are needed to ensure that it does not happen again.

The quality of the carnival rides and the fireworks was brought up. The Fire Department inspected the rides. Robert explained that the goal of the event is a local community celebration. There is a higher tier of rides that can be had, more light towers, quiet generators, but the cost would increase exponentially. That is something that would have to be decided by city council if they wanted to move in that direction.

We will work off the feedback that we receive and the lessons learned and will set goals. Doris talked about feedback she received about signage and maps. She stated that attendees were asking police officers where things were and the officers did not have any information to provide. It was suggested that the officers be provided with maps.

The attendance this year was about the same as last year or maybe a bit less. The weather was big factor in attendance. There were about 2800 people based on car counts. The price of the wristbands was discussed, along with maybe getting rid of the three and under bands and the buddy bands.

All agreed that handing out the Easter eggs did not turn out as expected and we will not be doing that again. We had a lot of negative feedback about the plastic eggs scattered everywhere.

A suggestion was made to make sure to turn on the air conditioners in the bathroom trailers earlier. There was talk about purchasing more a-frame signs. The location of the photo booth and layout of the games were discussed. Drainage in the park is an issue that will need to be addressed.

Robert talked about having a large map or directory where everyone could see it. He also mentioned barricades, access control and color-coded signs for the parking lots

Staff has met with police and fire departments and have discussed various scenarios for traffic control and parking. There was discussion about renting shuttles. Robert mentioned that there is a possibility that Congo Street may be under repair next year.

Staff mentioned the numbers associated with the event. It cost \$58K to run the event. The revenue expectation for the event was \$13K and we made \$24K. We had various sponsorships.

Committee members talked about the benches. There were many good comments about them.

**b. Fourth of July**

The celebration will be on a Tuesday. Isaac said that we have a budget of 17K for the Fourth of July celebration. He has a George Strait tribute band lined up and the stage is taken care of. Sebastian will get the restroom trailers reserved. Isaac has the food trucks signed up. May locate the food trucks in Post parking lot.

Staff talked about getting an inflatable mechanical bull ride. Committee members said yes. The possibility of opening the pool was discussed. The event will be laid back - bring your own chair, BBQ, concert, etc.

The parade will be at 6:30 and the band will play after it ends. The band will have their own lights and a sound system. Isaac gave details about the parade route. There will be no walkers this year. Last year's parade fell apart – need to make sure that all entrants keep it together. Judging will take place in the parking lot before the parade begins.

Staff discussed the fireworks. The group talked about having a watermelon seed spitting contest. They also talked about a lemonade contest and a BBQ competition. Isaac said that the event scope will go out tomorrow.

**Parks and Recreation Directors Report**

None

**Future agenda item request**

Youth Triathlon Rachel Beasley

**Next Meeting Date**

6-7-23

**Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Robyn and was seconded by Heather.