

RECREATION COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 14, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chairman Rick Rettig. Committee members present were Jim Matuszak, Rick Rettig and Jonathan Smith. Also present was Jon Eckel, Service Director.

2016 POOL REPORT

Steve Shives of the YMCA was present to give the year-end report for the Municipal Pool. He said that it was a successful year with no major problems. He said the pool ran well mechanically and the new sun shades were appreciated by the pool users. He said that the number of city passes issued was down from 2015 but up from 2014, and single day passes were fairly consistent. Mr. Shives said that the pool season was extended one week after school started and daytime attendance was very low but there was decent usage in the evening and on the final weekend. He suggested that if we want to extend again next year, he would not recommend opening until after school. Mr. Rettig added that the feedback he received from the community about staying open the extra week was very positive. Mr. Shives said the doggy dip to close the pool was also a nice community event. Mr. Rettig asked if the pool was painted last year. Mr. Eckel said that it was painted and we purchased new diving boards, new chaise lounges, and sunshades. Mr. Eckel said that \$324,000 was budgeted in 2016 for the pool and it ended with an unencumbered balance of \$7,844 and revenues received were \$149,440 so the out of pocket costs to run the pool were \$166,716. Mr. Eckel said that he is very pleased with our relationship with the YMCA. The Committee thanked Mr. Shives for his report.

DISCUSSION REGARDING MULTI-USE PATHS

Mr. Rettig said that the subject of multi-use paths has been brought up many times including at the last City Council meeting. Mr. Rettig said that he wants to see connectivity in the community to keep the small town feel and to keep people outdoors. He said that he believes that bike lanes and multi-use paths will help with that. He asked Mr. Eckel the status of the Administration's master plan. Mr. Eckel said that they have had two meetings and are trying to lay out the city into three categories: what we have, prioritize where to go next, and what would we do if money were no object. Mr. Matuszak asked if this is separate from bike lanes, and Mr. Eckel said that this is a master plan for multi-use paths.

Diane Friess, 311 West Indiana Avenue, said that the problem with multi-use paths is that the issue was on the ballot several years ago and was soundly defeated. She said that putting a ten foot path in is ridiculous, but she is okay with bike lanes as long as they are done safely. Mr. Rettig said that he understands a lot of homeowners do not want a ten foot path in their front yard. He said that his concern with bike lanes is that drivers think that bikers have to stay in that lane. He reiterated his desire to connect the downtown area, parks and schools but that Ms. Friess' comments about multi-use paths are well taken. Ms. Friess added that she feels side streets should be used for bike lanes because cars go 50 miles per hour on Indiana all the time. Mr. Rettig said there are some great opportunities for us when it comes to bike lanes in our communities. Tom Friess stated

that there are drainage issues because of the multi-use path at the cemetery. Mr. Rettig said that there will be more discussion in the months to come on this subject.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee agreed to change their regular meeting date to the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Rettig, Chairman
Recreation Committee

Next regular meeting: Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.