

RECREATION COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Rick Rettig. Committee members present were Jim Matuszak, Rick Rettig and Jonathan Smith. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator, and Jon Eckel, Service Director.

REVIEW OF 2017 BUDGET

Mr. Eckel stated that there are no startling revelations in the budget for parks, recreation, pool or pond. He said that the Administration has approved one additional full-time employee. This person will help mow, plow, do brush pick-up and fill in on the refuse truck. The budget also includes two new leaf machines. He said that these machines have three and a half times the capacity of what they are currently using and save the dump trucks from wear and tear and from getting leaves everywhere on the truck. Mr. Matuszak asked if the new employee's salary will be split between bureaus, and Mr. Eckel said that this will be a new Parks Bureau employee. He added that eventually he would like them all to be Department of Public Service employees and eliminate the bureau designation. There was a brief discussion about eliminating the bureaus for both budgetary and management reasons. Mr. Rettig asked if the two leaf machines and the medium dump truck are replacements. Ms. Kabat said that they will be eliminating the homemade boxes for leaves. She added that the new equipment will actually be coming out of the 403 fund. The Committee requested detailed departmental budget sheets and Ms. Kabat said that she would send that information to the committee. Mr. Rettig asked about the sunshades over the dugouts. Mr. Eckel said that they have been working with Tarpstop and are developing a prototype that they will try at Municipal Park. Mr. Smith asked how many additional boat docks they plan on installing and Ms. Kabat said about eight, depending on the configuration. Ms. Kabat said that during the amended budget process they will be evaluating the value and utilization of a hillside mower.

OTHER BUSINESS

Becky Williams asked for an update on Riverside Park. Ms. Kabat said that work is underway and most of the excavation is completed and they are starting with the Redi Rock. She said that an old sanitary sewer pipe that services eight houses on the north side of Front Street was found to be in a diminished condition so the Department of Public Utilities is working on a sanitary sewer repair project, but it will not affect the timeline for Riverside Park improvements.

Mr. Rettig said that he was contacted by PABSC regarding fencing around Meyer Field at Municipal Park. Ms. Kabat said that there has been a change in leadership in PABSC and she will be meeting with them and can discuss it at that time. Mr. Eckel noted that there is not a lot of greenspace at Municipal Park and the Recreation program uses the outfield of Meyer Field for some of their clinics and a fence would restrict that.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Rettig, Chairman
Recreation Committee

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, October 12, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.