

Centralia Park Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 14, 2023
Centralia Recreation Center
12:00 PM

Park Board Members Present: Phil Hulen, Dale Davidson, Richard Dickerson, Lindsey Magley, Bev Reynolds, and Jessi O'Bannon.

Also Present: Erle Bennett—Park Director, Andrea Owens—Secretary.

Meeting was called to order at 12:08 p.m. by President, Phil Hulen.

The Minutes from October 17, 2023, were approved by consent.

The Treasurer's Report was not ready at this time.

Recreation Center

It was reported that the Recreation Center currently has 2,721 members. Last month the membership was 2,742 and last year the membership was 2,563.

Discussion was held regarding how well Kids Club is going this year and have approximately 50 children attending daily.

The Senior in Shape and Body Bar classes will resume Monday November 20, 2023, when Christyne Robertson returns.

The Recreation Center is hosting the 5th and 6th grade Youth basketball games this Saturday, November 18, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. A \$2.00 gate fee will be charged for ages 6 and older.

The Park Director reported that the treadmill decks have all been flipped and cleaned. New decks will need to be installed in 1-2 years.

The drain repair on the sidewalk in front of the Recreation Center has been completed.

The front desk of the Recreation Center will be closed Wednesday November 22, 2023, through Saturday, November 25, 2023, for Thanksgiving Holiday. Members with 24-hour cards will have access to the Fitness Center and gymnasium. Any member with an out-of-town guest must pay the daily admission fee and sign a form prior to the Holiday.

Park

The Park Director reported that the Light Up the Night project will begin decorating the City Square after Thanksgiving and the lights will officially turn on the Season Friday, December 1, 2023.

The 2023 Pumpkin Festival was a huge success with approximately 7,500 people in attendance throughout the day. There were 75 Vendors, The Food Trucks sold out of food, the 250 Goodie Bags were given out within the first 47 minutes, and the 1,200 Gumballs that were donated ran out the first 40 minutes of the Event. Plans are underway to expand the Festival for 2024.

The Park bathrooms have officially closed for the Season, and Park Shelter reservations will resume April 2024.

Dixie Tree Services, LLC out of Mexico will begin the tree removal project through the Conservation Department Grant on November 20, 2023.

The Park Director reported that Cab Attken's wife will be donating \$5,000 to the Parks and has requested a Memorial Tree to be planted in the City Recreation Park.

The Park Director reported that the cost for the ADA family restroom at the East Field will cost approximately \$9,100.00.

The Park Director reported that the monkey bars at the South Field playground have been removed due to safety purposes. Discussion was held regarding the Park Committee determining what to replace it with. Details to be discussed at a later date.

Discussion was held regarding the Trail Grant and it being an 80-20 match. The Park Director presented a Google Earth picture showing a map of the one-mile walking trail idea within the City Recreation Park.

The Park Director informed the Board the need of a batting cage at the South Field for Middle School softball. Approximate cost would be \$750 plus \$1,600 for the concrete and labor and will be further addressed for the next fiscal year.

The Park Director informed the Board that a lawn mower for the Park Department needs to be added to the Budget for 2024.

Golf

The Park Director reported that the staff has been winterizing the Course.

The Park Director informed the Board starting November 27, 2023, the Clubhouse will be open 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. only on days that the temperature is 50 degrees or higher.

Dale Davidson made a motion with a second from Lindsey Magley for the Friends of the Park- Growth for the Greater Good Campaign to cover the patio project of installing two exterior doors and single pane windows at a total cost of \$5,500. Motion passed unanimously.

The Park Director reported that the ponds are all low and the well pump is in need of replacing.

Discussion was held regarding not allowing smoking in the patio area and providing a smoking area outside of the East Side of the Clubhouse. No smoking allowed on the covered patio or inside the Clubhouse.

Lindsey Magley left at 12:48 p.m.

Pool

The Park Director reported that the repair to the outflow pipe has been completed.

Items Which May Arise

The Park Director reported that all safety issues have been addressed and are up to date within all Departments.

Discussion was held regarding a capital fundraiser to purchase a Memorial patio brick for \$150 that will decorate a path at the Golf Course. Forms are available on-line and at the Recreation Center.

The Park Director reported that approximately 15 Ash trees need to be removed in 2024 at the City Recreation Park.

Next scheduled meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, December 12, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Andrea Owens, Parks and Recreation Dept Secretary.