

MAY 1, 2017, YOUTH AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

4 p.m. Council Chamber. Members present: J. Pearson, M. Platteter, B. Morgan (for R. Moore). Others present: A. Christianson, K. Gorsegner, K. Jeffress, D. Parker, M. Reynolds.

Call to Order:

Committee Chair Platteter called the meeting to order and presided.

Skate Park:

LHS tech ed instructor Kyle Jeffress appeared in regard to assisting youth who use it with skate park repairs. It appears the so-called "half pipe", which is the largest piece, is beyond reclamation. Buying 10 new sheets of skatelite@ (or a similar product) for \$2,748, including shipping, should, along with salvaged parts, allow remaining pieces to be repaired and be serviceable for a few years. During that time the skate park could be relocated to LES. Some additional money will be needed for fasteners and for wood and paint to repair the skate park fence. Mr. Jeffress will oversee repairs and dismantling of the half pipe. \$741 remains available from a previous donation. Mr. Parker will seek info on advised fastener placement.

Mayor Reynolds stated that we have an obligation to provide positive outlets for local youth to try to help them develop into productive members of the community.

Motion was made by Platteter seconded by Morgan and carried by voice vote to recommend to the Council that it advance \$2,500 (from fund balance) for this purpose with the intent that users will fund-raise and repay one half that amount. The value of any material donations will also be applied against that one half.

Those present agreed with Mrs. Pearson's suggestion that a corn boil during Mardi Gras should be a good fund raiser. The Jaycees had previously offered a free stand in Memorial Park to skate park users for fund raising purposes. The Committee supports the concept of continuing to raise money to buy prebuilt pieces going forward. The Committee also seems to agree that the City should view skate parks in nearby communities like Barron for ideas and that it should provide a portable toilet at the skate park. The latter will need to be anchored well to inhibit tip-overs.

Parks and Rec:

There was discussion of possible creation of an enhanced City parks and rec department, which consideration this Committee could play a key role in investigating and, perhaps, implementing. This is now seen as an economic development effort to help attract and retain workers at all levels.

Rec/Wellness Center:

Mayor Reynolds commented on his vision for a community rec center which could involve an enhanced parks and rec department. Such a center could include provision of the following and more:

*rooms for WRA, SHOT, Boy Scouts and similar organizations*wellness center*intramurals*adult league basketball*dance classes*karate and other martial arts lessons*activities such as races*exercise stations*archery, canoeing and fishing lessons

Mayor Reynolds asked Mrs. Pearson if she might be interested in serving on an ad hoc committee being formed to explore the idea of converting the LES into a Community Outdoor Recreation and Education (CORE) center once it ceases to be used for school purposes. She responded affirmatively.

A question was raised whether a parks and rec position is a job a teacher could handle over the summer months as Bruce Stewart had done at one time. It was also mentioned that Clerk Kavanagh previously operated the City's youth center, which sponsored bus rides to various regional destinations.

It was mentioned that too few people seem to carry the burden in most organizations which results in those who do getting burned out. And that one reason organizations struggle to attract volunteers is that they fail at defining expectations. People who might be interested are afraid they will be expected to do more than they want to so don't volunteer. If tasks are clearly defined and broken down into smaller ones that folks can pick and choose from they are more likely to get on board and provide some level of help.

Adjourn:

Chair Platteter adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.