

Recreation Commission
Wednesday, August 14, 2024
6:15 PM

A meeting of the Recreation Commission was held Wednesday, August 14, 2024, at the Youth Center located on Pike Street. The meeting was called to order at 6:20 pm. The following were in attendance:

John Faggione, Director	Melissa Newhauser
Brandy Figueroa, Chairman	Dawn Jones (via phone)
Corey Puopolo, Vice Chair	Stan Buczek
Colin O'Connell, Liaison	
Na-Shawn Campbell, Youth Member	

Absent: Sean Addy, Debbie Cunningham

Public Comment

None

Youth Report

Na-Shawn reported that some Fall sports will be starting on August 19th and that the fields are getting done. Chase field is complete and looks great.

Approval of Report and Minutes from June 2024 and the report from July 2024

A motion to approve the minutes and report for June and the report for July was made by Melissa and seconded by Stan. All in favor:

Aye: 5 Nay: 0 Absent: 2

New Business

- Mr. Hoppey's services will be 4pm-7pm on 8/30 and a mass on 8/31 at 10am. The school dedication will be at 1pm on 8/31. Thew repass will be at the Elks at 5pm that same evening.
- The bathhouse was hit by a vehicle and after meeting with the Mayor and DPW, John said the city will be looking to knock the structure down and rebuild if insurance allows for it. The insurance adjustor is coming on 8/20 to look at the damage. Porta Johns have been used so that the beach could remain open. John is going to see if insurance can cover the cost of the porta johns as well.
- The beach flooded on 8/11 causing the beach to close to let the waters recede and for the lifeguards to clean up the shed, which had flooded. There was significant water damage to the AED and med kit. The parking lot was cleaned, and the beach reopened on 8/15. The ropes are not going to be reset because the beach will be closing for the season on 8/18.
- John gave the Youth Center schedule for the remainder of the summer.
- The Rec Department will be heading to see the Mets on 8/16. Busing is getting very expensive, and our field trips may have to be limited in the months to come.
- The Rec Department is scheduled to see the Jets play on 9/29. The cost is not determined yet because John is waiting on tailgating options.
- The Italian Fest has been postponed to 9/8 3pm-9pm due to forecasted inclement weather.
- Braeden Ross will be hosting a final concert at Riverside Park on 8/20 at 7pm. This will be a variety of community acts coming together to showcase their talents for "Arts in the Park".
- The River City Church will have their backpack giveaway, movie night, and final basketball night on 8/23 at 5pm.

- National Night Out was postponed to 8/28. There will be a Backpack giveaway that same day at Farnum at 10am.
- Senator Skoufis will be doing a backpack giveaway at Veterans Park on 9/4 4-6pm.
- The ACT Group performed Macbeth at Riverside Park. It was a sold-out show. They also performed Alice in Wonderland at the Youth Center. It had a great turnout. They donated money to the Recreation Department. They have submitted a facility request to use the building on 9/20 and the weekend of 12/6-12/8 and to use Riverside Park on 10/5.
- John and the Mayor met with Parkitects to look at designs for a splashpad at Church Street. Plans were made and have been returned for supervision. Senator Skoufis has asked to see the plans. The Youth Center will be changing its hours to 2pm-6pm to accommodate the Middle School schedule. A middle school bus run has been arranged. A motion to hire Stephanie DeJesus as a Youth Center Leader substitute was made by Stan and seconded by Corey. All those in favor:

Aye: 5 Nay: 0 Absent: 2

A motion to approve Ayden Smedley as a new Youth Member was made by Brandy and seconded by Melissa. All those in favor:

Aye: 5 Nay: 0 Absent: 2

Old Business

- The Food Truck and Fireworks Festival went very well. There were no issues and next year’s event has been scheduled for July 3, 2025.
- There is no DRI update
- Materials for Veteran’s Park improvements have been ordered. This project should begin in late September.
- John is hoping to bond out the Church Street rehab project soon so that the work can begin in 2025.
- Attendance at Church Street’s Summer Program was down drastically. The Youth Center was packed. John will include more details in the August report.
- John is looking for ideas about next year’s summer concerts. In the current format, they do not yield a crowd. The Farnum Concerts get a good crowd.
- There is no update on the key fob system at the dog park.

Motion to Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 was made by Stan and seconded by Brandy. All those in favor:

Aye: 5 Nay: 0 Absent: 2

**NEXT MEETING (Tentatively)
Wednesday
September 18, 2024, at 6:15PM**