

WATERLOO PARKS COMMISSION – MINUTES

September 4, 2024

1. ROLL CALL AND CALL TO ORDER. Parks Coordinator Haberkorn called the Parks Commission meeting to order at 5:05 pm in the Municipal Building Council Chambers. ROLL CALL: Voting members present: Setz, Vieth, Quamme, Kegler, & Weihert. Absent: None. Ex-officio members present: Parks Coordinator Gabe Haberkorn. Absent: DPW Director Chad Yerges, Friends of Firemen's Park President Jessica Pickel & WYSO Representative Otto Degler. Others present: None.
2. MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL: JUNE 5, 2024. MOTION: Moved by Setz, seconded by Kegler. VOICE VOTE: Motion Carried 4-0. Quamme was not present at time of Meeting Minutes Approval Vote.
3. CITIZEN INPUT: Kegler spoke on issues within Firemen's Park with weed eating and forestry maintenance. He also spoke on the Fox Park shrubbery along the river. Kegler also inquired about the Batting Cages in Firemen's Park. No other Citizen Input.
4. REPORTS/UPDATES:
 - a. Coordinator's Report: Haberkorn spoke on the Parks Department not having a good July and August in events including July 4. Haberkorn stated moving dates to the 2nd Thursday of the month not to be in competition with Jefferson County Parks "Brew with a View". Haberkorn spoke about the door project ordered and the dugout/press box renovation completed except for the fencing that would go around them. Haberkorn stated that the electric and lighting is complete, and the new lighting has received rave reviews from renters. Haberkorn said when talking about Carousel updates that he did speak with Todd Goings from Carousel and Carvings about possibly taking more crankshafts during the winter, but it would depend on other work that he has received from other projects. Haberkorn spoke about Voyager builders coming up with a plan for the Reunion Hall. Haberkorn spoke about Wiener and Kraut Day ready to go and that the Holiday Party this year is set for December 7. Setz asked about the Grant Opportunities and any updates on that. Weihert spoke that he had not heard any updates on the Taps Grant, but he did miss some meetings. Haberkorn stated he will follow up for the next Parks Commission meeting.
 - b. Parks Financial Report: Haberkorn spoke on the ending balance sheets for July of 2024, the State Computer Aid funding has been rectified, but Tax Levy has not been. Weihert asked when that usually happens and Haberkorn stated that usually it happens in two installments in February and August. Haberkorn spoke on only being at 54% of revenue this year to this point and it goes to show for the lower numbers and low turnouts for events in 2024.
 - c. 2024 Capital Projects: Haberkorn spoke on Capital Projects mostly finished for the year and big projects are completed. Haberkorn stated the new Park Pavilion doors are ordered, just waiting to arrive and be installed. Weihert asked about Dog Park Donations and how they are doing. Haberkorn stated that it is low but is also something that they have not put a lot of work into this year as well. Haberkorn asked about the Parks Commission looking at "Big Picture" items and the future items up to 2030.
5. NEW BUSINESS:
 - a. 2025 Budget: Haberkorn spoke on submitting two budgets to the Finance Committee: One submittal is the regular submittal and the second submittal with a Full Time Park Employee. Haberkorn stated that with all the projects in the park needing to be done, there is enough work for a full-time position. Haberkorn stated as it stands now, there is not enough time to do both office work and outside work, and that a full-time position is needed. Haberkorn spoke on winterizing Field A, and how much time is spent and/or not spent in the park doing projects. Haberkorn stated the Finance Department did not want to speak about the new submittal for a full-time park employee. Haberkorn spoke that the Finance Committee took into consideration the original submittal and changes to the 2025 submittal compared to 2024. Haberkorn then submitted and discussed a third budget to show the Parks Budget without doing events or large events such as July 4 or Summer Concerts. A discussion was had with the Parks Commission about the future of park events moving forward. Haberkorn then discussed different ways that the Pavilion is rented and the changing of policy where the Parks Departments Bartenders would have to be hired in any event instead of just Public Events. Weihert stated that he had asked Treasurer Lana Nelson to speak with me about the budget process with eliminating the variables in the Parks Department Budget and submit to Ehlers for their opinion on what would be the correct process going forward. Discussion. MOTION: Moved by Weihert to approve the regular budget submitted for 2025, seconded by Vieth. VOICE VOTE: Motion Carried 5-0.
 - b. 2025 Capital Projects: Haberkorn spoke on Capital Projects and that he would like to keep it the same moving into next year and leaving the Pickleball/Basketball Court on the Capital Projects list. Haberkorn also spoke on the 2026 Capital Project and moving forward with bathrooms and the end of the Bingo Hall. Kegler spoke about the Reunion Hall and wanting to see Voyager or the company presenting a plan to come to the Parks Commission meeting. Discussion.
 - c. 2025 Fee Schedule: Haberkorn discussed changing of the fee schedule and that it hasn't been changed since 2022. Haberkorn spoke on the differences in a Private vs Public and how the Parks Department is losing money when groups go Private vs Public. Haberkorn stated that this is why he would like to go forward with new pricing for the Pavilion Rentals and Bartender Fees. Setz asked if we knew where Columbus is at for their rentals to be comparable. Haberkorn stated that they are already at \$2000 and more for their rentals. Weihert asked if this would change the number of rentals we are receiving and asked if we had more details on the cancelations that we have had in 2024. Haberkorn stated that he didn't believe that it would change the number of rentals and that he could not elaborate on why the events were canceled except that he was contacted by the bride's father and not the couple

themselves. Vieth asked to have Haberkorn elaborate on the difference between Private vs Public events. Haberkorn then discussed the difference between the two types of events is the purchasing of alcohol and that food is not a part of that difference. Haberkorn then discussed the changing of the Bartender Fee and that most "Bartender Rentals" are \$30-\$80/hour. Quamme stated that she believed the prices are fair but thought that \$350 might not be enough for someone to pick Private vs Public. Weihert suggested making changes to have a larger gap for Resident vs Non-Resident. Discussion was had to increase prices to the following: Resident Private - \$1800, Non-Resident Private - \$1600, Resident Public - \$1500, and Non-Resident Public - \$1700. Discussion. MOTION: Moved by Weihert to approve the Fee Schedule Changes to the Pavilion with the discussed amended changes made starting February 1, 2025, seconded by Quamme. VOICE VOTE: Motion Carried 5-0.

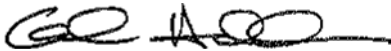
6. INFORMATION:

- a. Softball Field Conversation: Haberkorn stated that he will be speaking at the next School Board meeting and that he feels the Parks Department and himself have not been treated fairly by the Waterloo School District, School District Administration, and School District Staff. Haberkorn stated that he feels that the Parks Department and himself have been used as the scapegoat for problems that may or may not exist. Haberkorn also spoke on an Opens Record Request by Amy Bogost, who is a Civil Rights Attorney for the Schaumann family who is possibly suing the School District.
- b. Summer Concert Series: Rusty Hearts
- c. W&K Day
- d. Friends of Firemen's Park Golf Outing – George Washington Davies Open – July 25th: New fundraiser for the Waterloo Parks Department

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS, FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND NEXT MEETING.

- a. Next Meeting: October 2, 2024, at 5:00 pm

8. ADJOURNMENT. MOTION: Moved by Setz to adjourn, seconded by Quamme. VOICE VOTE: Motion Carried 5-0
Approximate time: 6:38 pm



Gabe Haberkorn
Park Coordinator