

RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Friday, March 10, 2023; 8:00 am

In Attendance: Commissioner Aaron Hill, Commissioner Vicki Dawson via video conference, Kevin Boe, Dave Klundt, Isabelle Sinkler, Jeff Heisler, Dean Ambuehl, Marcy Brush, Shawn Ludwig, Randi Litchy, Cassie Doll, Stephanie D'Ambrosio, Tatianna Friese, Ana Rusness-Petersen, Chad Pfau, Amanda Lamp, Cade Merrigan, Broc Lietz, Carolyn Boutain, Dave Leker, Susan Faus, Dave Bietz

Absent: Pace Maier

Update on Programs

Randi Litchy, Dave Klundt, Jeff Heisler, Isabelle Sinkler presented.

- Randi Litchy reviewed. Adult Hockey – Lower and Middle Hockey went great! Officials are getting harder to find.
- Randi Litchy reviewed. Drop In Broomball - Numbers have been strong and players enjoy having the time on the ice. I will continue to offer moving forward.
- Randi Litchy reviewed Intro to Climbing – New last Fall! Working with Fargo Climbing to offer an intro class to 5- to 10-year-olds. We started off with eight! Hoping to continue to grow.
- Randi Litchy reviewed MS Group – They continue to meet weekly, and the numbers are holding for now.
- Dave Klundt reviewed. 3-on-3 Basketball – We had fall leagues on Sundays at Fargo North High School. This program continues to fill up. There were no issues with these leagues. These leagues referee themselves.
- Dave Klundt reviewed. 5-on-5 Basketball – Steadily declined over the years. We had winter leagues on Sundays and Wednesdays at Fargo North High School and Tuesdays at Osgood Elementary School. We had a total of thirty-seven teams this winter. Finding referees was difficult.
 - Commissioner Dawson asked if at any point we would decide not to do the 5-on-5 Basketball anymore. Dave Klundt responded that we will be sending a survey to captains after the season to explore leagues referring themselves and that we would have one staff person over seeing all games. 3-on-3 is already running this way.
 - Commissioner Hill asked if leagues would keep their own scores. Dave Klundt stated it would be that way if they move to scoring themselves. 3-on-3 is already running this way.
 - Kevin Boe discussed once we have the new complex it will be easier since we could have leagues in one location.

- Dave Klundt reviewed. Figure Skating and Hockey Skills lessons – We offer three sessions of lessons. Each session the registrants attend class once a week for six weeks. These are all group lessons. We had the following registration totals this year. Figure skating lessons – 602 registrants. Hockey Skills – 69 registrants. Laura Jacobson is our figure skating coordinator. She has been our coordinator for many years. With today's staffing issues, Laura does a great job recruiting and training our skating staff. Even with her recruiting skills, it is challenging finding instructors. Laura recruits a lot of the upper course skaters to teach the younger classes. Without that recruitment we would not have a skating program.
 - Commissioner Dawson asked if this was just for figure skating or are they teaching intro to skating. Dave Klundt stated it is for all of the skating programs.
- Dave Klundt reviewed. Sports Sampler – We had a fall and winter program. These programs are offered for 4 to 6-year-olds. These are both five-week programs that meet Tuesdays and Thursdays. This program teaches youth the basics of sports in a group setting.
 - Commissioner Dawson stated that she feels this is one of the best programs that we do. Kevin Boe discussed some availability for longer programming at the new complex. (Example themed sports sampler)
- Dave Klundt reviewed youth Volleyball – We had a 3rd and 4th grade volleyball league in the fall. There were forty youth registered separated into five teams. We hire coaches for this program. This is an eight-week league. We focus on kids who do not want to go the JO Volleyball route.
- Dave Klundt reviewed youth Basketball – We have a late winter league for kindergarten and 1st graders and 2nd graders. This is a six-week league that starts in mid-February and is held at Centennial School gym. We filled all four leagues with 20 participants in each league. We hire the coaches for this league.
- Dave Klundt reviewed the Edgewood Chalet. With the fair amount of snow, we had this year the Chalet has been busy. It has been a good winter for skis and snowshoe rentals. Sunday, March 12 will be the final day.
 - Commissioner Dawson asked that we make sure that we make the public know that even though warming houses, etc. are closed but that if people want to continue to skate and use the trails, they may do so they just are no longer being maintained. Dave Klundt has spoken to marketing on this.
- Dave Klundt reviewed the Annual Ice Revue.
- Jeff Heisler reviewed Adult Volleyball (Fall and Winter) – Our Fall volleyball league was held at the Sport Arena (M-Th). We had 130 teams. Everything went very well. The Adult Volleyball (Winter) – We used a total of five different gyms during our Winter season. Clara Barton, Centennial and Ed Clapp were used Mon-Thur and Fargo South Main Gym and Middle Gym were used on Wednesdays. We had a total of 142 teams during our Winter Season.
- Jeff Heisler reviewed the Adult Volleyball Tournaments (Winterfest, Luck of the Draw, & Hi Lo) – All tournament went well, and we had 14 teams in the Hi Lo, 47 teams in the

Winterfest, and 54 players in the Luck of the Draw tournament. We did add referees back to most Winterfest tournaments.

- Jeff Heisler reviewed the Art classes – All classes were close to capacity that was set during COVID. Jeff feels the numbers for the class can go back to what they were before COVID.

Update on Events

Tatianna Friese and Stephanie D’Ambrosio presented.

Tatianna reviewed the Fall/Winter season:

- Fall in Fargo-9,500 over four event days.
- The Lab- 400 in attendance
 - Dr. Gram from Concordia helps with this event.
- Santa Village- 9,000 over 11 event days
 - PepsiCo donated 1,000 food bags. A total of 200 food bags were handed out at the event. Everything else that was left from the food bags the Fargo Park District donated to the Great Plains Food Bank.
 - A total of \$1800 was donated to Sanford and FirstLink.
 - 1200 letters were donated to Macy’s where they donated \$1.00 for each letter to the Make A Wish Foundation.
 - Roughly 4,000 pounds of food was donated and give the Great Plains Food Bank
 - YMCA was given a donation of 600 toys.
 - Santa Village had a new Santa this year. He did a wonderful job this year. He had great feedback.
 - Commissioner Dawson was happy with the Santa this year. She felt he did a wonderful job.
 - We did fight weather all of December, so the numbers were down a bit.
- Winter Birding- 100 in attendance
- S’mores and More- 275 over four event days
- Youth Pond Hockey Day- 25 teams
- Pond Hockey- 37 teams
- Ice Fishing Derby- 250 in attendance
 - Unfortunately, no fish were caught.
- Foundation Beam Signing Event

Stephanie reviewed the upcoming Spring/Summer events:

- Butterfly Ball tickets are on sale now.
 - There going well. We have sold 500 out of 800 at this time.
- Midwest Kid Fest
 - Working on a sensory zone for this event. The events team is working on this for all of their events.
 - Commissioner Hill asked about a sensory zone and what is included. Stephanie reported it would be an area that would be a quiet area designated for kids who are feeling overwhelmed. There may be fidget spinners or quiet play. The events team is working with groups a round town to make sure they make it more inclusive for all.

- 3 Neighborhood Summer Sports Series events – New
 - Working with Tri-City Soccer on this. Tri-City Soccer will bring their soccer van into a couple parks this summer to offer free introductory soccer skills.
- Learn to Build – New
 - The Fargo Park District carpenters are helping with this event.
 - The event will help teach the fundamentals of building.
 - McGough has already expressed interest in sponsoring this event.
 - Commission Dawson asked the age for this event.
 - Stephanie stated this event will be for kids 6 to 12 and an adult.
- 8 Parks to Go boxes.
 - These boxes will be placed throughout different parks with random items in them such as art, chalk, hoola hoops and more.
 - This event is run mainly by the events interns so they can take ownership of the event.
- Island Park Show
 - Working on the look of this event and the challenges that lie ahead with the pool construction.
 - Commissioner Hill asked if the full pool lot will be affected.
 - Kevin stated that the whole lot will be used for layout of the pool construction.
 - Commissioner Dawson felt that people are prepared to walk for this event.

Update on Broadway Square

Ana Rusness-Petersen presented.

Broadway Square is wrapping up its third winter season and preparing to launch into its third summer season of activities.

2023 Quarter 1 Review:

- Number of events and days of activities: 81 days plus three rentals.
- Visitors (1/1/23 - 2/28/23): 12,051 (with over 2,500 repeats)
- Social Media Followers: Facebook - 7,537; Instagram - 2,907
- Events:
 - Rink Reels (x2)
 - Ice Skating Demo
 - Fargo Love
 - Broadway Square @ the Home & Garden Show
 - In Commissioner Hill's packet is a flyer from this event.
 - This event was able to get Broadways Squares name out to some people who have not heard of the square yet.
- Coffee & Cocoa Crawl
- Pride Skating Party
- Hockey League wraps up today.
- The Scheels Rink will close on March 17. It takes about two weeks to melt the ice and get things cleaned up from the site.

2023 Quarter 2 Preview & Dates to Note

- Number of scheduled events and activities: 41 (+ 5 rentals)
- Events to Mark Calendars for:
 - 4/8 from 4:00 – 6:00 pm – National Zoo Day Celebration
 - 4/23 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm – World Book Night
 - 5/6 from 12:00 – 2:00 pm – Summer Chalk Fest series
 - 5/20 – Fargo Marathon Community Cheer Station
 - 5/23 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm – Music @ The Square series
 - 6/1 at 12:00 – Wellness @ The Square series
 - 6/1 at 7:00 pm – Movies @ The Square: Superhero series
 - 6/11 from 12:00 – 4:00 pm – Gaming Day series
- Ana reviewed all of the spreadsheets she attached to the packet.

Current Top Priorities at The Square

- Transition of Square from Winter to Spring/Summer
- Staffing (Events Staff and Summer Assistant)
- Sponsorships
- Marketing of series early and in meaningful ways
- Community partnerships and collaborations
- Keeping programs fresh and energizing
- Management Agreement Renewal

Commissioner Dawson asked if staff that is working at Broadway Square if their shirts could also have the Fargo Park District logo or maybe they would wear a Fargo Parks nametag so that people attending an event at Broadway Square would know this is a Fargo Park District event. Commissioner Dawson also stated that we can look at the next order of shirts not the needed to replace current shirts.

Update on Facilities

Dean Ambuehl presented.

Warming House

- Opened December 5 and closing March 1.
- Great Year for numbers at the five staffed rinks this year. We do not have a number for those unmanned rinks.
- Mickelson Warming house will stay opened as long as possible. We have had great snow this year so it should be open for a while yet.

Indoor Arenas

- Sports Arena has been transitioned over to Volleyball.
- Coliseum closed the week of March 6.
- Cornerstone Bank will close after this weekends Ice Revue.

- Cornerstone Bank lights are being changed to LED lights. The ones over the rinks will be completed over the rinks after this weekends event.
- Working on walk-throughs with Arena Managers to put together summer repair projects.
 - Dave Leker asked if we would have summer ice this summer.
 - Dean reported that the goal will be for summer of 2024.
 - This summer we will have the demolition derby events and dry camps.
 - Commissioner Dawson asked if this would be on both rinks or just one. Dean stated in 2024 it will be just Armstrong. Fowler would be dry floor training.

Update on Concessions

Chad Pfau presented.

Kevin introduced Chad Pfau to the commissioners since he is new to our department.

Chad introduced is staff Amanda Lamp and Cade Merrigan.

Winter Concessions Updated:

- Chad Pfau reviewed the numbers shared in the packet for the October 2022 to February 2023
 - Numbers are up for all locations except for Santa Village. The lowered number for Santa Village is due to the wintry weather.
 - Top five items for Fargo Park District concession stands are Popcorn, Hot Chocolate, Aquafina, Hot Dogs and Blow Pops.

Summer Concessions Update:

- Chad reviewed staffing and locations.
 - North Complex all sites will be open.
 - Commissioner Hill asked what full staff means. Chad stated with the two new full-time staff and a summer coordinator that helps along with the youth who served as concession staff last year coming back and are no longer in the 14-15 range. In the past the ones who are in the 14-15 range their times are limited.
 - Chad Pfau stated that if we have a tournament at the north complex, we need to have at least 10 staff throughout the day to run that facility. That at does not include all the other sites we have concession stands.
 - Pool concession stands will be run by the same staff that takes admission for the pools and this will help save money and limit the addition for more staff at those sites.
 - Kevin Boe stated that a change that has happened since Sam Larson-Frobig left is that her position has been split by two people Chad Pfau does all concessions and Dean Ambuehl will now be running the campground.

Kevin asked that all staff please go to the weekly overview and fill out the survey for the concession stands at the new complex.

Update on Summer Aquatics

Dave Klundt and Isabelle Sinkler presented.

Island Park Pool Construction

- Bids are scheduled to be opened March 16. The goal would be to get board approval at the April 11 Park Board meeting.

Summer Pool Schedule

- All four pools (Davies, Roger G Gress Northside Rec., Southwest Rec. And Madison) are scheduled to open Monday, June 5. Fargo Public Schools graduation is Sunday, June 4.
- We are hoping to open one pool the weekend of Memorial Day if we have enough staff available and pool maintenance is able have a pool ready for the summer. Specific dates and times would be May 27, 28 & 29 from 1-5 PM those dates.
- Our goal is to keep all four pools open through Friday, August 18.
- If we have enough staff, we plan to have Davies Pool open on the following dates (weekends only) to end the summer. August 19, 20, 26, 27 and September 2, 3, 4 all from 1-5 PM only.

NEW ITEMS/CHANGES to the pools this summer

- We plan to offer small group rentals for birthday parties at Davies and Southwest Rec Pools during general admission times.
- We are planning to streamline the pool admissions and concessions at Roger G Gress at Northside Rec and Southwest Rec. Pools this summer.
 - Chad Pfau added that we are going to have some grab and go concession at Madison Park this year.

Other:

Kevin Boe discussed the evaluation of programs and the cost per participant spreadsheet that has been prepared by program staff. This evaluation is for programs and will be working on a similar spreadsheet to evaluate events.

With no further questions, the meeting was adjourned.

Notes submitted by: Marcy Brush, Administrative Specialist