

Park Commission Meeting Minutes  
3rd Quarter FY 2020-21  
Virtual Meeting via MS Teams  
May 6, 2021  
4:15 p.m.

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

The 3rd Quarter meeting was called to order at 4:20 p.m. by Eric Urfer, Director of Parks/Recreation/Tourism. Commission members present via MS Teams were as follows: Ira Anders, Diane Kyser, Jolie Austin, Gail Price, Shawn Brimer and Advisory Commission Member Roger Hershey. April Schuler was absent. Zac Gall had submitted his resignation prior to this meeting. Eric Urfer, Director; Morris Heide, Assistant Director; Jodi Wynn, Recreation Manager; and Tamara Bennetzen, Staff Assistant; were present representing Parks/Recreation/Tourism Department staff. Guests included Mike Genet, Independence Examiner.

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Roger Hershey motioned to approve minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Meeting held on February 4, 2021 as written; motion was seconded by Jolie Austin. All commission members voted in favor; motion passed unanimously.

**Chair Comments**

None.

**Director's Report**

- Zac Gall's Resignation – Eric announced Zac Gall's resignation and reminded the Commission that they need to elect a new Chair. No one volunteered to Chair the Commission at this time, so this item will be placed under Old Business for discussion at the next meeting.
- Eric Urfer's Retirement – Eric announced his retirement with his last work day being tomorrow, May 5, 2021. Morris Heide has been named by the City Manager's Office as the Acting Director. Eric turned the meeting over to Morris.
- Budget Position – reports were e-mailed to the Park Commission members prior to this meeting.
  - FY 2020-21 Budget Position (Q3): Morris reviewed the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Budget Position including revenue, actual expenses, and fiscal year projections for each of the three funds that support Parks/Recreation/Tourism including: Recreation Levy Fund, Parks & Recreation Sales Tax Fund, and Transient Guest Tax Fund. Various questions were asked by the Committee and satisfactorily answered by staff.
  - Next Year Budget Proposal: Morris incorporated the next year budget proposal as he covered the current budget position.
- Recreation Update: Jodi Wynn, Recreation Manager gave an update on all Recreation facilities and programs. She stated that recreation is beginning to rebound in all locations and staff has many programs planned for the upcoming season.

- Parks Update: Morris gave the Parks Maintenance operations update as Mike Hicks was not able to attend this meeting. He covered the various maintenance and repair projects that Parks Maintenance has been working on.
- Projects Updates: Morris provided an update on various capital projects underway in Parks, Tourism, and the Arena; as well as projects planned in these areas for next fiscal year.

### **Old Business**

- COVID Meeting Protocols: Morris reviewed the two types of meetings allowed; virtual and hybrid. Ira, Diane, Shawn, Roger would like to meet in person; Gail would like to be virtual; Jolie is not sure until August meeting gets closer. We will plan for a hybrid model for the August meeting.

### **New Business**

- Pickleball Presentation: Jolie Austin gave a presentation of her “pie in the sky” desire to bring more pickleball to Independence, via indoor court facilities and more family-friendly facilities that are open to everyone at a low cost. Various questions were asked by other Commission members, including financing, etc. Roger mentioned the Parks Master Plan that does not speak to pickleball. Diane Kyser would like to form a sub-committee to research this idea and come up with the next step. Roger asked that the Commission have input on the August agenda for a Master Plan update. Jolie moved to form a pickleball sub-committee to explore pickleball options in Independence; Diane seconded the motion; all voted in favor; motioned passed.

### **Adjournment**

With no other business appearing before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m. Motion was made by Jolie and seconded by Roger; all voted in favor.