

## PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 26, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chairman John Sonsalla at 6:42 PM. Present at roll call were: John Sonsalla, Scott Heinberg, Jill Ringen, Stuart Vamstad and Mary Jane Sturtz. Absent: Aaron Wolfe and Leah Gollmer. Also present were: Mayor Dave Breunig, Wade Berget, Amy Prine, Tony Ruesga Jr., Tony B. Ruesga and Phil Risseeuw.

Motion by Ringen second by Sturtz that the meeting notice and agenda were properly posted. Motion carried. Motion by Sturtz second by Heinberg to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Under comments from citizens present, Chairman Sonsalla reported to this committee that the City Council made a decision on the Veterans Memorial Park sign. A three by five sign will be placed on the east side of the park near the water fountain. Stuart Vamstad stated he talked with Grey Byowski, and he suggested the sign be a bench with a high back with the park name on the back. Mr. Vamstad stated he has already informed Jason King of this suggestion.

Under new business, discussion was held concerning the proposed replacement of the Festival Grounds sign at the Festival Grounds. A copy of the proposed sign was distributed to those present at this meeting. Wade Berget presented the information and answered questions. Wade stated he has been working with Angie Thuli of the Darlington Chamber/Main Street Program and representatives of several other service organizations regarding this project. The proposed sign would be a V-shape two sided sign, similar to the City's entrance signs. Seven organizations have pledged \$500.00 each toward this project. The estimated cost is \$3,520.00.

After review and consideration, motion by Sturtz second by Heinberg to recommend to the Council the approval of the proposed sign design as presented. Motion carried. It was reported this sign is located within the floodplain, and will need to comply with the City's floodplain ordinance. A sign permit application will need to be filed with the City's building inspector.

Discussion was then to be held concerning senior yoga training. However after further investigation, Amy Prine asked the committee to take no action on this agenda item.

Discussion was then held regarding changes to the Silver Sneakers program. Amy Prine reported the Silver Sneakers program is being discontinued. However, AARP has a similar program with similar requirements. One of those requirements is the ACH monthly deposit of insurance benefits to the City of Darlington. They are requesting access to a checking account for the monthly deposits. Phil Risseeuw reported there is a Ritter checking account that could be used for this purpose, if that is acceptable to this committee. After discussion and consideration, motion by Ringen second by Sturtz to maintain access to a Silver Sneakers type program, and allow access to the Ritter checking account for the purpose of the monthly deposits of the insurance benefits as presented. Motion carried.

Discussion was then held concerning concerns / complaints about nonmember's use of facility; and food, soda, garbage, etc., left in the gymnasium. Wade Berget and Amy Prine presented information and answered questions. Discussion items included the following:

- Some members and/or nonmembers are bringing food and drinks into the gym, and leaving a mess in the gym. Almost every morning extra cleaning needs to be done in the gym and locker rooms.
- The problem of members letting their nonmember friends in with them has returned. There are policies in place to handle this problem; however Wade and Amy don't know who all the members are.
- There are also complaints about the foul language some of the kids use while they are at the facility.
- Sergeant Tony Ruesga and his son Tony then reported on some of the problems they have seen while they use the facility. Sergeant Ruesga stated the nonmembers can be charged with trespassing; however they need to be caught in the act, and given one warning first.
- Should the facility continue to be open 24 hours per day? It was suggested the facility should close at 10:00 PM.
- It was also suggested member badges be issued and given to members, to be worn while in the facility. Anyone without a badge would then be asked to leave.

After discussion and consideration, it was the consensus of those present to take the following actions:

- Start with putting up new signs stating the Wellness Center is a member's only facility, no trespassing.
- Another sign will say no outside food or drink shall be brought into the Wellness Center.
- Place information on Facebook and ask Kayla to do an article for the Republican Journal.
- And for the next meeting, have a cost proposal for the creation of member badges.

There being no further business for this meeting, motion by Heinberg second by Ringen to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 PM. Motion carried.

CITY OF DARLINGTON

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Philip A. Risseuw, Clerk-Treasurer