



Minutes

City of Cottage Grove

Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Commission Meeting

March 11th, 2024

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Cottage Grove Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Commission Meeting was held on March 11th 2024.

I. CALL TO ORDER & READING OF MISSION

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm at City Hall

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Susannah Brown, Adam Larson, Kelly Glasford, Debra Gustafson, Shane Waterman & David Olson

Members Absent: Samantha Crabtree, Justin Waterman

Others Present: Zac Dockter Parks & Recreation Director, Jim Fohrman Parks Supervisor, & Molly Pietruszewski Recreation Manager, Brad Muckenhirn Recreation/Ice Area Supervisor, Monique Garza-City Council Liaison

III. Approval of Agenda

A Motion to approve agenda made by Commissioner Brown & Seconded by Commissioner Glasford. Agenda approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A Motion to approve minutes from February 12th 2024 meeting made by Commissioner S. Waterman & Seconded by Commissioner Gustafson. Minutes approved.

V. Open Forum- None

VI. Presentations – None

VII. Action Items

a. Pickleball Program

- i. Brad Muckenhirn has been working with the old Pickleball Club advisory board to create a good plan for operations here in Cottage Grove for 2024 and beyond. Currently we have courts at four locations (Granada Park, Cedarhurst Meadows, Sunnyhill Park, & Glacial Valley Park). We have two “full time” locations with nets at Glacial Valley & Granada with a total of 9 courts between the two.
- ii. Brad Muckenhirn gave a brief overview of the history of the Pickleball Club. It is a volunteer group that began out of Granada Park with a 5-member advisory board that worked as a liaison with the club to implement changes and recommendations from members. The club has grown and evolved over the years as the need within Cottage Grove has changed. Because of the growth in the club and popularity of the sport, they were in search of handing over operations while working in partnership with the city to manage the club as it has become beyond their ability to handle registrations, promotions, etc. with upwards of 130 members.
- iii. The Glacial Valley expansion has given a huge advantage for communications for the Parks and Recreation to manage operations.
- iv. We have been partnering with members of the board and have researched our neighboring communities in what they offer for their programs. For reference Woodbury is bursting at the seams with 600+ members throughout various locations.
- v. We will be offering League Play at Glacial Valley Park. We will have Men’s, Women’s, & Mixed leagues at various levels and will have games Tues/Wed/Thur evenings.
- vi. Currently we are holding off on hosting tournaments for 2024 and will focus more on a fun, family friendly event. We have been approached by outside sources inquiring about rentals and we are also going to hold off for this first year and focus on our residents first.
- vii. Club registration began March 1st for Cottage Grove residents and March 8th for non-residents. The club maxed out fast at 200 members registering, and 10 on a waiting list. League registration has been a little low, but there is still plenty of time for promotions.

- viii. Zac wanted to clarify the following:
 - 1. The Pickleball Club reached out to us to help them.
 - 2. Even though the schedule looks overwhelming, there are always at least 3 courts open for public play throughout the community.
 - 3. This action request is to support the pickleball program as presented by the recreation department.
- ix. Commissioner Olson inquired about financial needs and compared this club to our relationship with other athletic associations.
 - a. Brad stated this is a structured recreation program run by the city that comes with a fee. Those fees collected will offset maintenance fees that are required. As for the comparison to other associations this is a city run program there is no relation.
 - b. Zac clarified that in comparison to the other athletic associations, the other associations do all the groundwork (registrations, fees, tournaments etc.) and our agreement is to allow them to use facilities. With this program we would handle all the operations but would ask and take any input from the advisory board members.
- x. Commissioner Brown inquired about parking and noise. Will Glacial Valley be able to accommodate parking?
 - a. Brad stated that according to the board there will be approximately 30 to 40 people playing at a time, so we will have to monitor the amount of parking available as we start the program.
- xi. Commissioner Larson asked for clarification between Granada/Glacial Valley and the other courts available for open play.
 - a. Brad explained that the other courts are a bring your own net. Zac added that the other courts are multi use courts so we can't utilize those courts as sole pickleball courts.

A motion was made by Commissioner Glasford to support the pickleball program. Commissioner Olson seconded. Motion carried.

VIII. Presentation of Information-None

IX. Action Updates

a. Mississippi Dunes Park Naming

- i. The official naming was approved by Council.

b. Mississippi Dunes Building

- i. We are working on a conceptual design so we can get that graphic to add to the local sales option tax initiative.

c. Community Garden

- i. Thanks to the help of the Washington County Gardener's Association, we received the Statewide Health Initiation Program Grant (\$23,000). Once Council approves the Grant, we will start working on hooking up to a water source, tilling the land, etc.

d. Bike Park Project

- i. The volunteer group is currently raising necessary funds and finding sponsors for their project.

e. CG Trailway Corridor Grant

- i. We received a (approximately) \$150,000 grant for the trailway restoration from Imperial west to Hinton Ave. We are currently working with residents that live along the trail and making sure they remove any structures that are encroaching or on the land. Another notice will be sent out to remind residents that there will be a lot of work being done to the area to be able to complete this restoration.

f. Strawberry Fest

- i. Jim Fohrman presented that Strawberry Fest will be held June 20th through June 23rd at Kingston Park. Brad will be running the softball tournament at Lamar during that time as well. Thursday will be family night once again. We are currently working with the athletic associations for activities. On Friday & Saturday there will be concerts in the evening. The parade will be on Saturday at 10:00am along Indian Blvd. The Strawberry Fest Association is looking for more ambassadors for their ambassador program for the 24/25 season. A representative reminded the commission that they do offer scholarships through this program and are looking for older participants as the age limit goes up to 21.

X. Donation and Acknowledgements

a. Memorial Benches

- i. Two benches were donated to Highlands Park.

b. AED Units

- i. Officially the safe station units (accessible 365 24/7) donated by Teddy's Heart Program & the CG Athletic Association are located at Kingston, Hamlet (2), Highlands, Woodridge, and one will be installed at Oakwood Park once we receive it. The Snowmobile Club also donated one for Lamar Park that will be installed. CGMS will also be getting multiple units around their athletic fields.

XI. Staff Reports & Educational Materials

- a. Impact Measures

XII. Commission Comments-None

XIII. Council Comments-None

XIV. Adjournment- Motioned by Commissioner Gustafson.

Seconded by Commissioner Olson. Meeting Adjourned at 7:28pm.