

**EMPORIA RECREATION COMMISSION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
February 20th, 2023**

The Regular Board Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dave Harding.

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Ryan Karjala, Susan Brinkman and non-voting member David McGhee.

GUESTS PRESENT: Jennifer Kraus (Assistant Director of Business), Amy Moody (Accountant), Jennifer Wegener (Aquatics Supervisor) and Stephanie Dreasher (Clerk of the Board).

Chairperson Dave Harding welcomed new board treasurer David McGhee.

Susan Brinkman moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and Ryan Karjala seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Leadership Team Updates

Jennifer Wegener (Aquatics Supervisor) presented about two conferences that she recently attended, KRPA and NRPA. Learned a lot about Aquatic AI, staffing and safety.

The Emporia Rec part time employees raised \$2,800.00 for Special Olympics by doing the Polar Plunge and did a lot of unique fundraising events.

Swim Lessons start next week, the Aqua Combat fitness class has decided to continue and has been well received by the participants.

Sundays have been used for JAC lifeguard recruitment by having those interested come in and shadow the current guards with drills and education.

Jennifer Kraus (Assistant Director of Business) spoke regarding Celebrate ERC, it is the Rec Center's 70th birthday and a group of diverse community members meet every 3rd Wednesday. The group is served lunch and educated on different aspects of the Emporia Recreation Commission. So far this year, Wellness was the topic for January and Basketball was the February topic and March will be at the outdoor maintenance facility.

Director's Items

The Director reported that all full-time staff attended the 75th Kansas Recreation and Park Association State Conference in Overland Park. This is the largest conference in KRPA history with 900 in attendance.

Specialty Flooring will be meeting with staff Tuesday, February 21st to present new flooring options for the Fitness Room and Aerobic Studio.

The Director updated the board that the research of funding for recreation center renovations has been postponed. The Director, Mark McAnarney (Special Projects Coordinator) and Dan Williams (Controller at Lyon County) will work together on possible funding options.

The Director met with Dick Horton (Park and Recreation Planner and Management Consultant) during the KRPA Conference and discussed developing capital improvement priorities. The

Emporia Recreation Center and City of Emporia has worked with Mr. Horton on previous projects. The Director will bring back more information regarding his potential board assessment of capital improvement priorities.

All City Boards are invited to an evening meeting with the City Commission that will be held at Radius Brewery on Monday, February 27th from 5-7pm. All board members are welcome and may bring a plus one.

Staff is preparing for the 5A State Basketball tournament that will be held March 8th-11th. The Rec Commission along with E.S.P.I. have been hosting this tournament since 1995. The Director would like to have the Mayor and Chairperson hand out awards on the last day of the tournament.

The Director wanted to make the Board aware of an arising issue at recreation centers regarding the public accommodation issues with gender equality and having unisex locker rooms and restrooms.

New Business

Amy Moody (Accountant) presented a proposal from Wright CPA on Employer Retention Tax Credit. There is potential to get 6 quarters of lost monies during COVID returned to ERC.

Wright CPA has worked with local businesses with successful returns. The estimated costs for the proposal is 5% of what the Recreation Commission would receive back.

Susan Brinkman made a motion for approval of the Wright CPA proposal on Employer Retention Tax Credit and for Dave Harding, Commission Chair, to sign and retain a copy of the proposal and for the fee not to exceed 5%. Ryan Karjala seconded the motion, motion passed 3-0.

Old Business

Jennifer Kraus (Assistant Director of Business) reviewed the proposed changes to Section C, Administrative Matters Sec. 7.16-7.18 that was presented at last month's regular board meeting. Ryan Karjala made a motion to approve the proposed changes to Section C, Administrative Matters Sec. 7.16-7.18 and Susan Brinkman seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Executive Session

No Items

Next Regular Board Meeting is Monday, March 20th, 2023.

Jeremy Dorsey moved to adjourn the meeting and Susan Brinkman seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Prepared by Stephanie Dreasher, Clerk

Approved by Ryan Karjala, Secretary