

EMPORIA RECREATION COMMISSION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
March 20th, 2023

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

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Susan Brinkman, Jeremy Dorsey (via Zoom), Mike Helbert (via Zoom), and non-voting member David McGhee.

GUESTS PRESENT: Jennifer Kraus (Assistant Director of Business), Amanda Gutierrez (Assistant Director of Operations), Amy Moody (Accountant), Rick Cunningham (Sports Supervisor), Tiffany Barker (Program Supervisor), Matt Redeker (Assistant Sports Supervisor), Jennifer Wegener (Aquatics Supervisor), Dylan Sherwood (KVOE) and Stephanie Dreasher (Clerk of the Board).

The meeting was called to order at 5:35p.m.

Susan Brinkman made a motion to add an Agenda Item to Old Business, Capital Improvement Updates, and Jeremy Dorsey seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Mike Helbert made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Susan Brinkman seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Leadership Team Updates

Rick Cunningham (Sports Supervisor) reported that adult basketball just finished up with a total of 7 teams which is average. There were no adult volleyball or adult indoor soccer leagues, he has changed days, times and length of leagues but had no interest.

Very strong numbers for Spring Soccer, practices start March 27th and games on April 15th.

Tiffany Barker (Program Supervisor) reported a very good last two months, Lunch Bunch went to a great restaurant in Wichita with the best pies, jalapeno cheddar bread was made at the bread camp, sold a lot of t-shirts at State Basketball, and offered a Spring Break Camp that maxed out with a waiting list. Summer S'cape registration will also be rolling out early with enrollment starting March 27th. She is also gearing up for a busy summer and is nearly fully staffed at this point.

Amanda Gutierrez (Assistant Director of Operations) wanted to thank everyone on the board that helped with the 5A State Basketball handing out awards and attending.

Celebrate ERC was last Wednesday held at the Outdoor Maintenance Compound, and a smaller group met due to it being Spring Break, but a lot of good questions and information.

During Spring Break there was an Escape Room offered for small groups in the conference room at the Rec. Center. There were several families that came from in and out of town and really enjoyed it.

Director's Items

The Director met with Emporia Sports Promotion Inc; a group started back in 1982 by the CVB to promote sports. ESPI members volunteer for the state tournaments and have been gracious enough to donate money for new scoreboards in the Rec Center gymnasium. The new scoreboard will have LED lights and have the ERC logo and ESPI logo on each side of the scoreboard. Installation is planned for late June early July.

The Director presented the specifications to be delivered to auto dealerships for leasing vehicles. Mike Helbert would like for the Director to add to the specifications 4 and/or 6 cylinder that have the equivalent horsepower.

The Director thanked everyone for all the long hours, time and effort put into the KSHSAA tournament. He always receives compliments during and after the tournament of how friendly the staff are and how well run the tournament is.

Amanda Gutierrez (Assistant Director of Operations) and Aaron Hammond (Wellness Supervisor) have been working on getting estimates for new flooring in the Fitness Room and Aerobics Studio. They are currently working with Specialty Floors and Regents Flooring on getting estimates to present at a future board meeting.

New Business

The Director presented recommendations from Trey Cocking (City Manager) and himself regarding the Jones Aquatic Center Management Agreement. There are three options to choose from as a recommendation to the City Commission.

Option #1 – raise youth and adult fees by \$1.00 each

Option #2 – raise adult fees only by \$1.00 each

Option #3 – increase management fee from \$47,000.00 up to \$65,000.00

The Director and City Manager recommend option 3.

Susan Brinkman would like to know if increasing the management agreement reimbursement would allow for community members to be able to swim for free. Jennifer Wegener (Aquatics Supervisor) does have reservations regarding free swim and the amount of public would show up when she is struggling to staff lifeguards.

Mike Helbert made a motion to table Item A under New Business, and to have a Special Board Meeting for the Director to bring back more information regarding the three options presented, before making any recommendations to the City Commission. The Board would like to know the cost of raising lifeguard payrates to \$15/\$20 per hour. The Special Board Meeting will be before the City Commission study session on April 5th. Jeremy Dorsey seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0.

Old Business

Susan Brinkman would like the Recreation Commission to consider creating a task force to study funding for a new or renovated recreation center. It would be created by each board member appointing a member along with the Director and Trey Cocking (City Manager) and have the task force meet on a timeline set to report back their findings to the board. This special task force will only encompass findings for the Recreation Center.

Jeremey Dorsey believes this would be a positive direction, he has seen no movement in the 4 years he has been on the board.

Mike Helbert would also like to see a representative from USD 253.

Susan Brinkman made a motion for the Recreation Commission to start a task force that each commissioner appoints one individual to represent on the board, Trey Cocking (City Manager) and Tom McEvoy (Rec. Director) will serve as ex-officio to the board. The board will come back to the July 17th board meeting to report their initial findings. Jeremey Dorsey seconded the motion. Mike Helbert made a motion to amend the original motion to have the task force report back by the August 21st board meeting.

David McGhee suggested that before the task force is created Trey Cocking (City Manager) and Tom McEvoy (Rec. Director) should define who the stakeholders are that should make up the task force. Also have expectations for the task force and what their end goal will be.

Susan Brinkman withdrew her motion.

Susan Brinkman made a motion for Trey Cocking (City Manager) and Tom McEvoy (Rec. Director) to create a resolution for the task force to evaluate improvements and funding for a new facility to be brought back at the Special Board Meeting. Jeremey Dorsey seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Executive Session

No Items

Special Board Meeting TBA

Next Regular Board Meeting is Monday, April 17th, 2023.

Susan Brinkman moved to adjourn the meeting and Mike Helbert seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Prepared by Stephanie Dreasher, Clerk

Approved by Ryan Karjala, Secretary