

Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 10, 2022
Noon at Manchester Recreation Center

In attendance: Chairperson, Dr. Prater Powell, Leslie Brasfield, Stan Rogers, Brent Parsley, Mayor Marilyn Howard, Director- A.J. Fox, and Assistant Director- Becki Johnson. Guests – Claire Jolley, John Coffelt, Chesleigh Lee, Shawn Daniels.

Call to order by Director- Dr. Prater Powell

1. Approval of meeting minutes from Thursday, January 20, 2022. Dr. Powell made a motion to approve, Brent Parsley seconded the motion, and all approved.
2. Programs Report
 - a. Adult Basketball League is wrapping up on February 20th, 2022. Six total teams participated. There will be a financial report done after the conclusion of the program.
 - b. Dusty Elam had a total of 109 kid participate this year. In total, we made \$5,650.40 and spent \$3457.50 giving us a profit of \$2,192.90.
 - c. Futsol has started to meet every Wednesday night from 6:00pm – 7:45pm. This will run from now until February 23rd. This program is open to all members and anyone that pays for a day pass.
 - d. Fastpitch Softball has been put on hold until further notice. There is a meeting being held on February 10th at night to discuss the future of the league. Fast pitch was originally given over to the Parks and Recreation Department this season, but it has come to light that there was miscommunication among their board members on how fast pitch would run in 2022.
 - e. Taylor's Archery will be holding an archery tournament this Saturday, February 12th in the Recreation Center. Due to this being an all-day event the use of the gym and track will not be permitted for those not participating. We hope to have over 200 participants. We are going to serve concessions.
 - f. The Archery Tag and Valentines Dance is scheduled for Friday, February 18th from 7:00pm – 9:00pm. We have sponsorships from Dominos and Taylor's Archery for this event. Each child is to fill out a waiver and pay \$5 for entry. The admission fee will include access to the event a slice of pizza and a drink. We will sell other concessions during the event.
 - g. The February Lifeguard Course has four active participants. Brent Parsley asked if our numbers were normally higher. In response, A.J. said yes but that our Aquatics Director, Colt Pittman has been reaching out to the high school and Motlow for more participation. There is a lifeguard shortage across the state. To combat this, we have been waiving the fee for the course if the participant agrees to work for us through Labor Day. It was suggested by Chesleigh Lee that we could start offering for lifeguards to get free food or drink during their shifts to potentially bring more people in. If we do not hire enough lifeguards, it is possible that our summer pool hours will have to be altered in order to operate effectively. Colt Pittman will be Lifeguard Instructor Certified (LGI) by the end of the month.

- h. Due to Covid-19 numbers being on the rise at the beginning of 2022, there has not been an Amazing Family Night scheduled. We hope to host one in March.

3. Maintenance

- a. General Maintenance is being performed as normal.
- b. Fred Deadman shop repairs are still underway
- c. The ball fields are being maintained for the upcoming baseball and softball seasons.
- d. The HFR engineers are currently working on a second report for updating the Recreation Complex.

4. Old Business

- a. The bid from Twin Cedars was approved for the outdoor basketball court that will be on Westwood campus. The multipurpose court has arrived.
- b. The Diabetes A Farmers Market is awaiting its metal building that is projected to be here the third week of March.
- c. We are awaiting on the TDEC workshop on administering the LPRF Ballfield Lighting Grant.
- d. The Joint School Use Agreement was been approved by Dr. Vaughn and is under review by the attorney of the City Schools.
 - i. Dr. Prater asked if the school system would be responsible for getting the fields ready.
 - 1. AJ Fox stated that the maintenance of the field is held by the Parks and Recreation Department, but that the schools are responsible for running their games or tournaments.
 - ii. Dr. Prater stated that there is no Athletic Director for the city schools and that we should change in the agreement that we will be working with the Director of Schools, the principals or the Athletic Directors at each school.
- e. The Swim Team Facility Use Agreement underwent a few changes. The MAKOS are to report any practice or other scheduling changes 48 hours ahead of time unless it is due to severe weather. Swim meets should be scheduled with the department with at least a 30-day notice. Practice times will not be indicated on the agreement in case they need to be changed due to maintenance and safety precautions. Instead these practice times will be included on a separate page with the agreement. The agreement will be looked at annually to determine the usage fees. According to the city attorney, the Manchester Parks and Recreation Department is to start charging the MAKOS an estimated \$2,000.00 per month, starting on March 1st, 2022.
 - i. Chesleigh Lee, the MAKOS parent board president, voiced her concern by asking if the ball teams are also going to have to be charged going forward and what had happened to the grace period that had been previously decided. She stated that \$2,000.00 a month would destroy the MAKOS program. Lee also made a comment that this is the only nationally ranked team in Coffee County.
 - 1. Director A.J. Fox responded that according to attorney Ewell, we are legally required to charge.
 - 2. Mayor Marilyn Howard also responded stating that herself and Fox have looked at every angle possible to not charge the swim team. Though it

- would be seen as illegal and we can not be in illegal standing in order to save the swim team.
- ii. Shawn Daniels, MAKOS head coach, asked if there were other teams being charged
 1. Mayor Howard explained that the MAKOS were being charged in order to cover the costs of the lifeguards.
 - iii. Daniels asked if the swim team normally practices during Open Swim hours during the Summer hoping that this could eliminate some of the fees for the Summer months.
 1. Fox responded saying that the swim team would be swimming during the same blocks as the swim lessons this coming Summer. There would not be a lifeguard in the stand for the swim lessons only due to the fact that swim instructors can act as lifeguards while they are teaching. In order for an instructor to be able to lifeguard, they have to be on city pay roll to fall under the liability of the city.
 - iv. Brent Parsley stated that when the other leagues (i.e. baseball) use our fields that they pay for their umpires and that the swim team uses our pool but would be paying for our lifeguards. He then questioned if it would be possible to help fundraise for the fees.
 - v. Mayor Howard voiced that the way the swim team had been running was incorrect for a long time and that these changes were taking place in order to correct the past mistakes. She also stated that the MAKOS had been covering the costs of the coaches when they were traveling. She acknowledged that this was a fee that should have been covered by the city not the parent board.
 1. Lee expressed that due to the fact that the parent board covered the costs of travel for 13 years that the city actually owes them for doing so. When the city wouldn't pay the coaches for travel the parent board picked it up.
 - vi. Parsley then asked if the grace period was completely out of the question.
 1. Fox confirmed
 - vii. Stan Rogers asked if there were anyway the lifeguards' salaries could be subsidized.
 1. Fox said that this would not be possible.
 - viii. Daniels voiced that Lee and herself were so upset due to the sudden change of rules. The coaches and the parent board are feeling uneasy because they knew nothing about these problems before January 2022 and they did not know about the fees until this meeting.
 1. Parsley and Dr. Prater responded first saying that the Recreation Commission board and the City of Manchester also did not know about all of the problems until recently.
 2. Fox also responded stating that he had just learned that the swim team would be charged right before this meeting had happened.
 - ix. Dr. Prater asked if the swim team had their own lifeguards.

1. Fox stated that even if the coach is lifeguard certified that since they are no longer working for the city they would not be covered by our insurance.
 2. Lee rebutted saying that the swim team had its own liability insurance through USA swim.
 3. Parsley suggested this be brought to the attention of the attorney.
 4. Mayor Howard stated that she asked before if it was possible for the swim team to use its own lifeguards and attorney Ewell told them no.
 5. Fox said that the USA liability insurance would only cover their program and would not cover the Parks and Recreation Department if their lifeguards would have to act in a life saving manor.
- x. Parsley asked how volunteer coaches were covered in our leagues such as Dusty Elam. Would the coaches be able to volunteer as a lifeguard?
1. Fox stated that we have a liability form that they sign to where they are covered by the city. The coaches could volunteer yes but there is still the issue of paying a lifeguard to be in the stand. We could not have a volunteer lifeguard, they have to be clocked in.
- xi. Mayor Howard suggested the possibility of volunteering as a coach instead.
1. Daniels stated that this would not be financially feasible for her to volunteer up to 80 hours to coach.
- xii. It was at this point in the meeting that it was decided that we have exhausted all options and that the only way for us to stay legal is to charge the MAKOS for the use of our lifeguards' time. Both Lee and Daniels at this point were flustered and got up and left the room.
- xiii. It was at this point the remainder of the commission team discussed options for funding for the MAKOS swim team. Parsley suggested that we try to bring Lee and Daniels back into the meeting and help give the options so that not all hope was lost. Rogers and Parsley both voiced their concerns that the way they left could seem as if they would have no hope of keeping the program going.
- xiv. After Lee and Daniels returned, Leslie Brasfield stated that she wants to try to help them find other options to keep the swim team going. She offered to help them find a grant or a sponsorship that could keep them afloat.
- xv. Fox stated that there was also a possibility that Park Partners may allow MAKOS to work the Bonnaroo tent, which has the potential to be a huge fundraiser for them. Then MAKOS could possibly receive funds from working the tent. He believes the tent could roughly raise \$16,000 total. He told both Lee and Daniels to attend the Park Partners meeting.
- xvi. Daniels stated that she was shocked at the change in the budget for the lifeguards from the previous year and asked where the \$2,000.00 per month estimate was coming from.
1. Fox responded saying that it was calculated from now to July for the use of the lifeguards that would be used. He stated that if we were to charge the swim team per lane per hour that it could be up to \$6,000 a month.

5. New Business

- a. There were zero bids received for the Farmers Market HVAC Unit. There is a possibility of putting this out for re-bid in the future. 97 total vendors were originally notified about the bid.
 - b. The bid for 4th of July fireworks was responded with one bid from Impact Pyro for \$15,000. The original budget was \$11,000 for a 15-minute show, but the price of fireworks has gone up. After looking at Impact Pyro's resume and past events, the Parks and Recreation Administration feels comfortable trusting them with our show. Dr. Prater motioned to use Impact Pyro as our 4th of July vendor. Leslie Brasfield seconded. All board members were in favor.
 - i. In addition, we are now looking for vendors and bands for the 4th of July celebration. We hope to have Common John participate this year as a vendor.
6. Items from the Recreation Commission
- a. Dr. Prater Powell brought up the possibility of the Crosslin property across the street from the recreation center being up for sale soon. He explained that if we were wanting to expand that this may be the time to do so.
7. The next meeting is to be held on March 10th at noon at the Manchester Parks and Recreation Center.
8. Adjournment motioned by Dr. Prater Powell, seconded by Stan Rogers, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Claire Jolley, Activities Coordinator

