

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes
City of Mount Vernon
November 24, 2015 - City Hall

The Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation Board met on November 24, 2015 at 7:06 p.m. with the following members present: Lori Boren, Catherine Poduska, Mike Cranston and Scott Rose. Also in attendance: Parks and Recreation Director, Matt Siders and Pool Manager, Katey Forest.

1. Approval of the Agenda. Motion made by Boren, seconded by Poduska to approve agenda. Carried all.
2. Approval of the Minutes from October 20, 2015 meeting. Motion made by Poduska, seconded by Boren to approve minutes. Carried all.
3. Open Forum: Each citizen is limited to 5 minutes.
4. Directors Report - October 2015 to November 2015. Siders reported that the lights are now on at Sauter Park. There are six teams for 3rd through 6th grade girls' basketball and a total of 44 participants in the 1st and 2nd grade basketball. The pool basin does not have any significant voids under it but it is still losing water somewhere. The two main areas are possibly in the drain area and a crack in the wall. The filters will not cost as much as initially thought. Magical Night is December 3rd, which is its 25th anniversary. Siders attended a Trees Forever symposium on October 7th and received some great resources.
5. Pool Report for 2015 season (Katey Forest). Katey Forest gave a year end pool report to the board, which included open/closing dates, number of days open/closed, pool passes sold, daily admissions, swimming lesson numbers, concessions and other pool activities. Movie night went over very well this year. People were skeptical about purchasing pool passes this year due to the previous year's weather and days closed. There were some staffing issues towards the end of the season and lifeguards being unavailable. There was discussion on making changes to the policy on how pool passes are handled at the pool next year. Items that will also be discussed for next year's season are pay increases for lifeguards and provide more incentives to lifeguards to get additional training (WSI),
6. Discussion regarding future Park and Rec Board members. At this time, two applications have been received for the current vacancy. A possible recommendation will be made at a future Council meeting. Another vacancy will need to be filled once Scott Rose starts as Council member.

7. Discussion and possible action regarding creation of Tobacco/Nicotine Free Parks Ordinance. Data was given on this item at the last meeting and Siders also provided a sample ordinance from the City of Marion. Right now there is a “no smoking” resolution in effect in Mount Vernon and adopting this would expand into tobacco and nicotine, which would include vaporizers. The consensus of the board was to go forward with this. There will need to be some clarification in the language on the enforcement boundaries. A motion was made by Cranston to recommend to Council an ordinance similar to the City of Marion regarding smoking, the use of nicotine/nicotine products and vaporizers being prohibited in the City of Mount Vernon parks. Motion seconded by Boren. Carried all.
8. Discussion regarding additional land acquisition for parks. There is a large parcel of land east of Elliott Athletic Complex that is for sale. The northern 15 acres of the parcel could be available for City park use. City Administration is asking if the Parks and Recreation Board is interested in pursuing the acquisition of the land for park use. The consensus was yes. Siders will let City Administration know that the Parks and Recreation Board is in favor of moving forward with the purchase of additional land.
9. Discussion and possible action regarding Master Parks Plan and setting public hearing dates. Siders provided the board with an updated draft of the plan and went over the most recent changes. Siders will continue to make minor updates. Public hearings will not start until the new Council and administration takes over in January 2016.
10. Subcommittee reports (Parks, Capital, Pool, Programming, and Volunteer).
11. Old Business.
12. New Business.
13. Motion made by Cranston, seconded by Poduska to adjourn at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Marsha Dewell, Deputy Clerk.