



The MISSION of the City of Yankton is to provide exemplary experiences, services & spaces that create opportunities for everyone to learn, engage, and thrive.

**MINUTES**  
**YANKTON PARK ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Monday, September 18, 2023, 5:30PM, in the Community Room**  
**CMTEA Building, 1200 W. 21<sup>st</sup> Street**

**I. ROUTINE BUSINESS**

Roll Call:

Present: Jason Tellus, Tom Bixler, Brian Bertsch, Nick Severson, Jeannine Economy-List, and City Commissioner Brian Hunhoff.

Absent: Elizabeth Healy.

Also present Director of Parks and Recreation Todd Larson, City Manager Amy Leon, and Parks Secretary Chasity McHenry.

Public Appearances: Sam Hummel. Presented the Parks Advisory Board with information in regards to building a Pump Track or BMX Bike Park. Hummel implied that this would be a great opportunity for Yankton and provide something to do for the middle school and high school aged kids. A pump track is a circuit of hills, banked turns and features designed to be ridden by bike riders. They are relatively simple to use, can be constructed of dirt, and cater to a wide variety of rider skill levels. Could look to use crushed asphalt/concrete for a surfacing to help with wet weather conditions. There may be grants available for creating a park like this (T-Mobile, bike manufacturers). Sam reported Sioux City will have a small track in Cone Park. Sioux Falls will have 2 acres of track and it will be larger than Sioux City's.

Minutes: July 17, 2023 minutes approved. Economy-List motioned. Bixler second. Motion passed 5-0.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. 2023 Capital projects update.**

The Westside improvements project has some items completed and others ongoing. The meditative garden, sundial, and labyrinth project had the dedication ceremony with the donors on September 13. All parties are happy with how the gardens turned out. Will need to evaluate the middle area of the park between the basketball courts and three play areas to determine need for lighting in these areas. The Born Learning Trail will need to have artwork on the sidewalks repainted in the next year.

The pond project is in discussions between City engineers, Stockwell Engineering, and legal about what the next step should be. Discussions have been about a synthetic liner design and move away from the clay liner that was originally designed. Tom Bixler expressed concerns about using a synthetic liner, which will be more expensive, versus utilizing clay which may be a more trusted product.



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The pickle ball court conversion project received \$10,000 from Avera. We are still waiting on the finalization of a LWCF grant of \$34,000. The local pickle ball group has donated some funds for this project also. It appears with timing of grant finalization and signing paperwork, that this will be a 2024 project.

The Marne Creek trail project to repair flood damage from 2019 and to replace sections of the trail that were damaged in 2019, through FEMA, has been completed. The trail staff is evaluating the lighting along the trail system from the Meridian Bridge past the two water treatment facilities and up the switchback to the west of the Discovery Bridge.

There are 46 lights in the Walnut Street corridor between 4<sup>th</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street that are up-lights for the trees. We currently have identified six lights that are not working properly and we are working through what should be done to remedy the situation. The lights are controlled by Bluetooth on a handheld device when standing right next to the light and the light colors can be changed using the handheld device. We will need to get a quote on replacing the malfunctioning lights when we have determined the exact number of problem lights.

The Parks Department is utilizing the new Field Leveling/Groomer that was purchased in the spring. They are leveling the Northwest field in the south Sertoma Park complex.

- B. A citizen's task force committee has been meeting to plan for the Meridian Bridge's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2024. The official birthday would be October 12, 2024. The group is discussing having educational events and entertainment events throughout 2024. Website- hosted by Yankton Thrive – [www.visitanktonsd.com/meridian-bridge-centennial/](http://www.visitanktonsd.com/meridian-bridge-centennial/)  
Facebook page- [www.facebook.com/Meridian.Centennial](https://www.facebook.com/Meridian.Centennial)  
Instagram page- @meridianbridgecentennial
- C. SAC mission statement: Provide everyone with an affordable, indoor, family-friendly fitness and recreation facility. The SAC financials through August 31 are attached. Reminder, the SAC fees will be increased starting October 1, 2023, and then again on January 1, 2024. New equipment is coming this month and into the beginning of October. The SAC has started using a new software September 18. Marketing for this upcoming fall/winter could include letters to former members welcoming them back to the SAC and providing some free access to get them back in the facility.

The Recreation Summer Programs are a part of the SAC operating budget. Attached is the 2023 Summer Recreation program Ledger which documents participation, expenses, and revenues.

- D. The Huether Family Aquatics Center 2023 financials provided. Along with attendance and concessions data. Library passes and utility customer passes data provided also.



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### III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Park shelter and restroom proposed signage. To help the parks staff ask people to leave the shelters as they clean and prepare them for rentals, signs with the following would be posted permanently in the shelters:

City of Yankton shelters are first-come-first-served for up to one hour unless reserved and the reservation posted. Please pick up after your use and dispose of trash in the provided trash cans. If you have a maintenance concern, please contact a park employee at 605-668-5233.

Report emergencies or illegal activity to the Yankton Police Department – 911 or non-emergencies at 605-668-5210.

Restroom signage example from Rapid City. Yankton's signs would state:

This restroom is seasonal May – September.

Contact the Parks Department for any maintenance concerns at 605-668-5233.

Report emergencies or illegal activity to the Yankton Police Department – 911 or non-emergencies at 605-668-5210.

The Parks Department cleaning crews for restrooms and shelters are starting to encounter more people who are non-housed in the mornings and during the day at our parks.

May need to include QR codes to link to City website. City should examine a text option to allow people to give feedback and other messages.

### IV. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. General discussion items.
- Commission information Memorandums (4 CIMs). The items were sent out after the meeting as they were not attached to the agenda packet.
    - Other completed work projects for the department are noted in the CIMs.
  - Next Meeting: Monday, November 20, 2023.

### V. ADJOURN

Bertsch motioned, Tellus second. Motion carried 5-0.