

City of Maquoketa
Parks Board Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2024

Call to Order: 5:38 p.m., City Council Chambers

Roll Call: Board members: Chris Gockel, Chris Ihrig and Carol Hammill

City: Jon Hopson (Maquoketa Public Works representative); Scott Warren (YMCA Executive Director)

City Council members: Ginger Bennett and Caroline Ehlinger

Guests: Brian Bennett, Barb Schroeder, and Pat Walke

Discussion of Park Clean-Up Day Plans for Saturday, May 18

- Barb and Pat reported they are planning to provide rolls and coffee before the workday begins. Pizza will be available when workers have finished their assignments.
- Scott will be contacting local banks for donations to cover half-price tags for bulky items and electronics.

Discussion of Grove Street Fence and Gaga Pit AstroTurf Padding

- Jon said he has received 5 bids for chain link fencing. The price ranges from \$15,660 to \$19,000. Huber Fence bid \$1,300 more than the cheapest bid, but they have done the fence at the Skate Park. There was a brief discussion about whether there should be one long section of fence or if there should be an opening by the batting cage. There was some concern about having the sidewalk inside the fence. This could expose passers-by to balls being tossed around when players warm up before games. Chris Gockel moved to accept the \$16,988 bid from Huber Fence. Chris Ihrig seconded the motion which passed. Chris Ihrig moved to order yellow fence guard for the Grove Street fence at a cost of \$2,042.55. Carol seconded and the motion passed.
- Jon reported that the cheapest surface for the Gaga Pit was \$4,100. Due to the cost, he suggested repurposing used AstroTurf. One roll will cost \$160. Chris Gockel moved to purchase the used AstroTurf. Carol seconded the motion which was approved.

Discussion of 2024 Project Priorities

- The possibility of building outdoor pickleball courts was talked about. Scott said the anonymous donor offering \$20,000 grants for court construction has already designated recipients for the next couple of years.
- Chris Ihrig asked about ideas for replacing park shelters at 1st Ward and 5th Ward. Chris Gockel asked about increased lighting near the Gaga Pit. So far nothing has been done.
- Additional discussion centered around playground equipment and possible exercise courses.

- Ginger asked about making a raised garden bed at the north end of 5th Ward Park. She would like to plant 10 or more fruit trees. She will bring a plan next month.
- Chris Gockel asked Jon to get a bid on replacing the path from the parking lot to the tennis courts at 5th Ward.

Discussion of Concessions/Scoreboard Volunteers for Summer Baseball

- Chris Gockel said he had talked with Josh Boldt and Scott Warren about opening concession stands for summer baseball games. It has been difficult in the past to break even on the stands. They decided we should invite food trucks to sell refreshments at games.
- Chris Gockel volunteered to work on scoreboard use.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Hammill
Secretary pro tem