

**Ankeny Park Board Meeting
January 30, 2023**

Meeting Minutes:

Call to Order: Chairperson Amber Smith called the Park Board meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. All board members were present. Nick Lenox and Leslie Reab represented City of Ankeny staff.

Approval of Minutes: The November meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with a motion from Chad Hade and a second from Aaron Bradshaw. All approved.

Capital Improvements Program - Updates: Lenox informed the board of the planned and approved department projects through the City's 2023 Capital Improvement Program. Lenox stated \$220,000 has been allocated toward the development of Aspen Ridge Park, with trail connection and turf improvements. A recently added \$230,000 CIP project is the design and construction of Creekside mini park that will feature a playground with rubber surfacing due to being located in a flood plain. Work will continue on the Des Moines Street Park Project, with installation of a playground, shelter and restroom, and development of the South Park which will include 12 pickleball courts, two baseball fields, batting cages and shelter with restrooms. Chad Hade inquired if the ball fields at Des Moines Street Park will be used for Parks & Recreation programming. Lenox stated the fields will be utilized for youth programs as well as made available for community rentals.

Other updates included the overlay of eight tennis courts at the Prairie Ridge Sports Complex, which shall be jointly paid for by the City and Ankeny School District, Lakeside Center renovations to modernize the facility, construction of a baseball/softball field in the Cherry Glen neighborhood, completion of the NW Irvinedale Trailhead welcome center, and the High Trestle Trail Experience Phase 1, which will potentially include grading and utility work, planting of trees and natives along the High Trestle Trail.

Seasonal Staffing: The Parks & Recreation Department hires over 350 seasonal staff to fill 27 different positions. Lenox stated the goal is to hire 120 lifeguards to get ahead of last summer's shortage that led them to closing Prairie Ridge Aquatic Center prior to the end of the season. Lenox also stated City administrators have been receptive to increasing seasonal staff hourly wages and in offering hiring incentives. Hourly wages were reviewed and increased approximately \$2.00/hour, ranging from \$11.25 to \$23.75, in order to stay competitive within the local job market. The City recruits and hires seasonal staff year-round.

Director's Report: Lenox reported that Tyler Stubbs with Iowa DNR will speak at February's board meeting on urban fishing, Katie Maki will be appointed and approved at Monday's City Council meeting, and that due to water damage from a sprinkler/water line break, the Public Services Building is undergoing repairs and was temporarily closed to the public.

Chairperson's Report – Amber Smith: Smith informed the board that January will be her last meeting as Chair and current board member Aaron Bradshaw has been named as her replacement.

Board Member Reports:

- Baldwin: No report.
- Bradshaw: No report.
- Church: No report.

- Craighead: No report.
- Hade: No report.

Adjournment: Josh Craighead moved meeting adjournment and Chad Hade provided the second. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Minutes Reported By: Leslie Reab, Parks & Recreation Administrative Assistant