

NORTH MANCHESTER PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

March 26, 2025

MINUTES

The North Manchester Parks & Recreation Board met in regular session at the Strauss-Peabody Aquatic and Fitness Center Conference Room. Members present: President Mel Sautter (28) Vice-President Jack Vineyard (29), Becky Kreps (26) and Bobbi Lautzenheiser (27). Also present were Jennifer Hotchkiss (Director), Linda Miller (Assistant Director), Gee Gee Tharp (American Legion President of Auxiliary NM) and Colleena Jimenez (American Legion Auxiliary).

CALL TO ORDER

President Mel Sautter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

There were none.

VISITOR COMMENTS

There were none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

American Legion Request for Halderman Park

Gee Gee Tharp and Colleena Jimenez presented a diagram to the board, asking for approval to include a few additional items to the Halderman Park Veterans Memorial project to make it look classier. They have created and launched a fundraising account with Patronicity to raise \$25,000 in 60 days (May-June). Patronicity is a national organization that uses "crowdgranting" to leverage matching dollars for projects throughout the state. If they raise the \$25,000 goal, Patronicity will match it. If they do not, they will receive only what they raised. The changes include adding five flagpoles and flags to represent our military branches, additional lighting for the flagpoles and back side of the memorial wall, removing shrubs and planting flowers, and adding a taller (5 ft.) two sided sign which will run east and west, visible to traffic from both directions, on the south end towards the Thomas Marshall House. Milestone has high school students lined up for April 21st to assist with the concrete pour at no cost to them. In preparation they need to get the bushes out, electric in and flagpoles installed prior to that date. The total projected budget is around \$20,000. The additional funds will be used to add the names of the North Manchester Veterans not included yet, and at no cost to the veteran. They are currently working on the guidelines to qualify. In addition, they are able to keep 10% for future expenses. Colleena added that If they do raise the money, they will need to have a tier program in place, such as a \$100 donation will sponsor a Veterans name on the wall, \$500-\$4,999 a brick on the inner side of the surrounding walkway, and over \$5,000 planting a memorial tree on the property. The goal is to have everything completed in time to hold the ribbon cutting at the Second Friday event in August. After a lengthy discussion, motion to approve adding five flagpoles and flags with additional lighting for the flagpoles and behind the memorial wall, removing the shrubs and planting flowers in between, and adding a taller (5 foot) two sided sign that runs east and west visible to traffic from both directions, on the south end towards the Thomas Marshall House as per the diagram (JV/BK) was passed by a voice vote of members present.

MINUTES

Minutes from the February 24, 2025 Regular Meeting were presented for approval. Motion for approval (BK/BL) was passed by a voice vote of members present.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

The Maintenance Report was reviewed. (Copy attached)

DIRECTOR REPORT

The Director's Report was reviewed. (Copy attached)

MRA REPORT

Jack reported that they have over 270 kids signed up so far, with 20-30 being late sign-ups. Eventually, the Junior High teams will be taken over by the High School and they will make them a spring sport.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND BILL PAYMENTS

Claims and Allowance Docket

The March Claims and Allowance Docket in the amount of \$90,652.45 was reviewed. Motion to approve the March Claims and Allowance Docket in the amount of \$90,652.45 (BL/BK) was passed by a voice vote of members present.

Monthly Park and Recreation Financial Reports

The March Claims Summary, Utility Comparison Report, February Expense Reports and February Revenue Reports were reviewed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dog Park

The Dog Park will be closed April 12-13 and 26-27 so that Xavier can install the agility equipment.

Outdoor Pickleball Courts

Jennifer reported that we did not get the matching grant. There were 28 applicants and we were not in the top 5. We can call them and they will go over our grant application. Tim is still out there raising money and he will be working with Julie Garber at the Community Foundation to apply for a Duke Grant. He is also starting the process for a Patronicity grant.

Master Plan

Jennifer reported that JPR did reduce their fee, took out one of the in person meetings and will have Jennifer get them information on the parks. She just needs to talk to Carrie about where that money will come from.

Daniel's Place

Jennifer said that she had received an email from Cheryl Working trying to connect her with the lady from the AWS Foundation. When she gets back from vacation she will follow up on that email. It was reported that Alleigh Daniels, the new Executive Director of Daniels Place, has left her position there.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

APPROVED _____

Mel Sautter, President

Jack Vineyard, Vice-President

Becky Kreps, Member

Bobbi Lautzenheiser, Member

Rick Espeset, Member