

City of Van Meter, Iowa

Parks & Recreation Board Meeting – November 21, 2024

- 1) The Van Meter Parks & Recreation Board met on November 21, 2024 for a meeting. The meeting started at 6:00 pm.

Board Members Present: Rhonda Baldwin, Lisa Benton, Amber Bowen, Janice Miller, Brooks Newton

Board Members Absent: Rona Jacobs

Staff Present: Jess Drake – Van Meter City Clerk, Sam Chia – Parks & Recreation Director

- 2) Parks & Recreation Director Chia called the meeting to order & roll was taken. New board member Brooks Newton was introduced.
- 3) October - Recap of activities:
 - Golden Pumpkin Scavenger Hunt – Rhonda Baldwin presented. A mini pumpkin was painted gold and hidden three different times throughout the community. Various photo clues were posted each day during each session until the pumpkin was found. Each winner that found the pumpkin received a gift bag containing Halloween candy and a \$25 gift card (2= 5th Quarter Bar & Grill and 1= Casey's General Store).
 - Beggars Night – Janice Miller and Lisa Benton presented. Had a very good attendance this year. Estimating 100 community members. For 2025, Amber Bowen suggested renting a bounce house plus incorporating more decorations and additional activities.
- 4) November recap of activities:
 - On November 6th, the Van Meter Public Library hosted an activity to make "gratitude" bracelets and also played a "cup" game. Van Meter Parks & Recreation Department paid for half of the cost of supplies which totaled approximately \$40.00. A coffee truck was also present.
- 5) December 2024 meeting has been cancelled.
- 6) Winter Activity Suggestions: Amber Bowen suggested hosting a "Sledding Day" in Johnson Park to include a coffee/hot chocolate truck and possible other activities.
- 7) Winter Sports Update – Sam Chia presented.
 - Basketball: grades 3-6 (boy & girls). 132 registered. League includes Adel, Perry, Winterset and Van Meter. Practice begins in December. Games in January through mid-February
 - Wrestling: 103 youth are registered.
 - Soccer: registration begins in January. Practice begins in late February/early March (pending weather). Games late March through May (Memorial weekend). Soccer fields have been aerated and sprayed.
- 8) Reviewed Income/Financials.
- 9) Banner/Signage Update: City council had a discussion as to where a permanent video sign could go. Sam and Jess will review the banner suggestions and put together a plan to be ready for the January 2025 meeting.
- 10) 2025 January meeting will be a working session to create a 2025 calendar of events to include promoting Van Meter Parks & Recreation and all city parks.
- 11) The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm

Preparer of minutes attestation: Rhonda Baldwin