

City of Van Meter, Iowa

Parks & Recreation Board Meeting – February 6, 2025

- 1) The Van Meter Parks & Recreation Board met on February 6, 2025 for a meeting. The meeting started at 6:01 pm.
Board Members Present: Rhonda Baldwin, Lisa Benton, Amber Bowen, Janice Miller, Brooks Newton, 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. Approval of agenda
Lisa Benton approve agenda ~ Rhonda Baldwin second approval
- 3) Approval of November 21, 2024 minutes
Janice Miller approved minutes ~ Lisa Benton second approval
- 4) Discussion: FY26 Budget
The budgeted expense line is \$8000. There is no revenue associated with those events aside from the plant sale which generated proceeds of just about \$6000 less expenses. Was a profit of \$2010.00 last year so the majority off the expenses are funded through general fund revenue.
- 5) Discussion: Winter/Spring Rec Sports Update
Registration numbers: Basketball 112
 Soccer 306
 Baseball 70
 Softball 41
Baseball is the biggest revenue generator due to concession sales. Soccer is the largest money expense mainly due to referee costs.
Question (Brooks Newton): Parents have inquired as to why we don't have a baseball/softball league for K-2nd grade students?
Answer (Sam Chia): We are currently in a league which includes Adel, Perry, Van Meter and Winterset and that league doesn't begin until 3rd grade. That's not to say that we couldn't form a 3 or 4 week clinic for the K-2nd grade students. 1-2 days per week.
Question was raised asking why we pay for referee certification out of our budget AND then pay the referee to perform their job (that we paid to get certified for).
Comment: If you want to be a lifeguard, no one pays for your certification but you.
Answer: No answer
- 6) Discussion: Grant Applications
Jess Drake: We applied for a grant for stairs from the lower field to the upper field at Johnson Park. Also applied to the Iowa Park & Recreation Association for \$1,000. We continue to apply for high dollar grants.
Microsoft has indicated that there may be a potential donation for trees related to parks & trails. We need to decide where the trees will be planted. May be a collaboration with the school when planting takes place.
- 7) Discussion: Master Trails Phase 1 Update
Engineering, design and planning solutions company to manage the project is Bolton & Menk located in Des Moines. Survey work has been completed. Preliminary DOT plans are due to the DOT by 04/15/2025.
Phase 1 of construction to begin October 2025 and completed by August 2026.
- 8) Discussion & possible Action: CY25 Activities Plan, Calendar, Budget, etc.
In conjunction with the Park & Rec Department, the Library will hold a summer reading program with the theme Color my World May 31st through July 26th.
Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 19th in Johnson Park
Plant & Garage Sale: Saturday, May 10th. Will be held at the former Dahl Building.
Coffee & possible food truck on site. Citizens will be invited to set up a garage sale booth at the Dahl building

vs. holding in their garage.

Art in the Park: Always on Saturdays ~ Held at various Van Meter Parks from 10am-12pm

June 14, June 28, July 12, July 26

Concerts on the Corner: Always held at Memorial Park in Van Meter on a Sunday from 5pm-7pm.

June 22nd, July 20th, August 17th

Fall Festival: September - site and time to be determined

Will include mum floral sale, family pumpkin decorating contest, DJ, food trucks and other activities to be planned.

October:

Wed, Oct 1st: Golden Pumpkin Hunt begins. Runs through Fri, Oct 31st

Halloween/Beggars Night 6pm-8pm – Site TBD

9) The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Next meeting scheduled for 6:00 pm on Thursday, March 13th at City Hall.

Preparer of minutes attestation: Rhonda Baldwin