

City of Van Meter, Iowa

Parks & Recreation Board Meeting – March 11, 2025

1) The Van Meter Parks & Recreation Board met on March 11, 2025 for a meeting. The meeting started at 6:01 pm.

Board Members Present: Rhonda Baldwin, Lisa Benton, Janice Miller

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:**
Rhonda Baldwin approve agenda ~ Janice Miller second approval

3) **Approval of February 6, 2025 minutes:**
Janice Miller approved minutes ~ Rhonda second approval

4) **Discussion: Spring Rec Sports Update** (Sam Chia)

Sport	# of Registrations	# of Teams	Start Dates
Soccer	402		March 29/30
Little League Baseball			
Majors/Minors	192	36/56	Week of April 14
Rookies/T-Ball		45/55	Week of May 5
Rec Softball			
Majors /Minors	100		Week of April 14
Rookies/T-Ball			Week of May 5
In league with Panorama, Adel, Earlham, West Central. Perry did not join the league but will be joining us for games.			

Q. Janice: Do you have soccer games scheduled at VM on Saturday, May 10? That’s the date of the plant sale so we feed our business from of the soccer traffic.

A. Sam: Yes

Rhonda volunteered to contact The Bean coffee truck for that date.

Sam: Due to the recent high winds during the blizzard, the roof on the dugout of one softball fields blew off. In process of repairing.

Q: Janice: regarding soccer officials - How did we decided we were going to handle reimbursement for certification/recertification of soccer officials going forward?

A: Jess: That is a conversation that needs to take place with the soccer board.

Lisa: Suggest that if you ref X number of games during the season, we will reimburse you. Otherwise, you will not be reimbursed.

Jess: Possibly reimburse for each game that they ref. Use the spring season to make our case. Feel we may have paid for certifications but some individuals may have not participated in games to ref.

5) **Discussion: April & May Events**

April 19 10:30: Easter Egg Hunt. Jess will order candy, some non-candy items and a few more eggs. Board members will begin filling eggs on Thu, April 3. Jess will create a Facebook event and add to the city new letter.

Rhonda will create a flier for the school student’s 4th grade on down. Jess will print. Rhonda will distribute amongst classrooms.

Will ask Jarin Young to be the Easter bunny.

May 10: Combo Plant & Community Garage Sale.

Plant Sale 8:00 am – 2:00 pm: Will hold at the city maintenance building. Include a coffee truck.

- Only change would be the cost of flower baskets. They went up \$1 (going from \$15 to \$16). We will keep our sale price at \$25.00.
- List what the proceeds go towards (Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween, etc.)

Garage Sale: We have permission to use the property around the Dahl building for garage tent sales.

- Participants will bring their own tents.
- City maintenance crew can mark off spaces and give us a number of spots available.
- Encourage participants to let up know ahead of time if they plan to participate. If on private property, submit address so that we can let the community know. Hand out at the plant sale.
- No registration fee.
- Let the Boy Scouts sell food if they would like. Jess will contact them.

6) Event Sign Updates:

Jess: will order banners and yard signs. Will not be date specific. Will say “this Saturday” or “this Sunday.”

- Signs for Easter, Plant Sale, Concert on the Corner, Yoga, Art in the Park
- Numbers to Order: 12 to 15 yard signs for each event. Will check on the price difference., 1 banner for each event.

7) Discussion & Possible Action: Pick Up Iowa-Keep Iowa Beautiful:

Lisa: They ask for different communities to become involved. Pick a date to beautify and clean up (the sports complex, down by the river, Johnson Park, etc), advertise, we are given gloves and trash bags to use.

Sam: Mid-June after events have ended at rec complex. Or after Raccoon River Days (June 6/7).

8) Discussion & Possible Action: City Entrance Sign Rehabilitation:

Does the Park board have any updates for that area?

Janice: Fertilization and weed control. Used to be done but was discontinued. Needs new mulch or rock, possible retaining wall. Possible inset flower pots. Need to add to Bolton & Menk’s estimates.

9) Microsoft Tree Donation:

The donation can’t go straight to the city as it is not a 501C3 but VMCDC is so the donation will go through them. Meeting in person with them next week. Microsoft committed to \$50K donation for trees. We will have to determine through the board how we want to allocate those resources. Through the master trails plan, \$24,800 is the line item budgeted for trees and shrubs relating to phase 1 of the master trail. That is not something that can be covered through the tap funding. Phase 1 from F90 to the school is just over \$1 million. We have \$685K through that grant that we received so the rest has to be paid through general fund or other financing sources.

10) Adjournment: 8:02 pm.

Next meeting scheduled for 6:00 pm on Thursday, April 3rd at City Hall.

Preparer of minutes attestation: Rhonda Baldwin