

SERGEANT BLUFF, IOWA
Parks & Rec Board Special Meeting Minutes
Electronic Meeting
May 6, 2020 @ 5:30 PM

Meeting called to order by Keegan at 5:30 PM

ATTENDING WERE:

Present: Angie Keegan, Kirk Moriarty, Aaron Sieperda, Lisa Ryan (alternate), Jon Anderson, Steve Lonneman

Others attending: Brent Brown, Parks & Recreation Director
Ben Parks, Parks & Recreation Coordinator
Carol Clark, City Council Member
Andrea Johnson, City Council Member

On March 23, 2020, Mayor Winkel, as the presiding officer of the Council's meetings, and in light of the proclamation of emergency made by his office and the Governor's prohibition of community gatherings of more than 10 people, determined that all meetings going forward should be conducted by electronic means. The determination was due to the fact that an in person meeting was impossible or impractical due to the public health threat of the Novel Coronavirus 2019 ("COVID-19") as those who need to participate or may have interest to participate would result in a gathering of more than 10 people. For good cause, meetings in person were deferred until further notice and arrangements were made to complete the Parks Board meeting electronically via teleconference call on May 6th at 5:30 p.m. An opportunity was provided to residents to call into the meeting or connect digitally through the Gotomeeting.com website. Directions for connecting to the electronic meeting were provided to the public through the Agenda which was posted pursuant to our usual procedures and further communicated by Facebook and the City website www.cityofsergeantbluff.com.

Additionally, it is noted that electronic meeting was authorized as a result of Gov. Reynolds State Public Emergency Declaration issue on March 20, 2020 which stated in Section Nine:

"Pursuant to Iowa Code § 29C.6(6), and at the request of the Iowa League of Cities on behalf of numerous local governmental bodies, I temporarily suspend the regulatory provisions of Iowa Code §§ 21.8, 26.12, and 414.12, or any other statute imposing a requirement to hold a public meeting or hearing, to the extent that the statutes could be interpreted to prevent a governmental body from holding the meeting by electronic means, provided that the governmental body properly notices the meeting or hearing and includes a telephone conference number or website address that permits the public to participate in the meeting or hearing. I also temporarily suspend those statutes to the extent they could be interpreted to prevent a governmental body from limiting the number of people present at an in-person location of the meeting, provided that the governmental body provides a means for the public to participate by telephone or electronically as provided in this section."

2020 Pool Season Discussion and possible recommendation

Angie Keegan mentioned some e-mails that were sent out to help in the Parks Board decision making process.

Carol Clark thanked all the Parks Board for connecting to this meeting with short notice . We value your input and we are looking for your feedback and comments. No decision has yet been made but it is a difficult decision due to many “unknowns”.

Angie Keegan said that without any official notice from the State of Iowa, she would like us to think about opening the pool even if the season looks different. She would like to see the pool open until Labor day.

Kirk Moriarty agrees with Angie Keegan, he would like to see it open and possibly be extended to Labor Day.

Andrea Johnson said that the COVID-19 task force meetings have had discussions about the feasibility of opening the pool. She asked if there was anything the pool could do regarding revenue that could make it feasible.

There was discussion about the historical revenue for the pool and the necessary preparation for getting the pool ready for the season. Safety precautions pertaining to COVID-19 were also discussed.

There was discussion about if the pool did not open this year if we could use these funds to do various repair and maintenance projects.

Many board members recognized that even though the pool is not a major revenue source, it is an important amenity to the community.

Brent Brown said that it would take between 3 to 6 weeks to prepare the pool.

The board discussed the possibility of limiting the pool to residents only but there was a concern that this would result in new problems.

Aaron Sieperda said that he knows it's a financial loss every year but if we can have it open for the community that would e good.

Steve Lonneman said that if it is safe to reopen it with social distancing or limited attendance then we should.

Kirk Moriarty said that we owe it to the community to open it safely.

Carol Clark asked if opening at a later time would result in any staffing problems.

Brent Brown said that many potential pool workers responded that they would still be available to staff the facility.

Lisa Ryan said that our community needs relief because they have responded very well to the COVID-19 pandemic. We should proceed with opening the pool unless we're informed that it cannot open.

Brent Brown said that we would probably hire some employees to encourage responsible social distancing and cleaning over at the splash pad.

A motion was made by Moriarty, seconded by Sieperda to recommend that the City Council proceed with an opening date of June 15th for the pool and if necessary a possible secondary reopening date should be July 1st.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Moriarty, seconded by Lonneman adjourn the meeting at 6:15 pm

All ayes, motion carried.

Danny Christoffers, Secretary

Angie Keegan, Chair