

Park Board Minutes
January 13, 2005

Member's present: Candy Sullinger, Jeff Justus, Bev Martin, Joe McDowell, Kent Vanderpool, Mark Sill and Tim Finestead.

Member's absent: Mitch Holmes, Wes Stoner and Julie Wolfe.

Staff present: Cindy Shook, Frank Schoneboom, Deanna Schlegal and Shari Risley.

Note a correction to the December minutes to reflect that Bev Martin was entered as both present and absent, she was in fact absent. Joe McDowell made a motion to approve the December minutes. The motion was seconded by Bev Martin. All were in favor.

Business:

1. The first item on the agenda was a discussion of the 2005 fees proposal by Cindy Shook. She told the members she would review the fee proposal and also the related fee survey information that she had collected from other similar facilities. She began by stating that the top sheet of the fees information package was staff recommendations and started with the fees for Aquatics programs. Jeff Justus asked if the fee as listed was for swimming only and would parents be dropping off children for unsupervised pool use? Cindy answered that yes, they could, if the child was within the required age guidelines. Candy Sullinger remarked that the pricing seemed very reasonable and told the members that College of the Ozarks had a swim program and the proposed fees looked in line with those for C of O. Cindy said she had spoken to Lannie Evans regarding a parent/infant program and to Julie Wolfe about conducting an water exercise program and both expressed interest. Joe McDowell asked Cindy if the season pass would cover the morning splash and any other times for swimming, like lap swim, and Cindy responded that she had not considered that but thought it would include admittance during all the hours of operation. Cindy told members she liked the up front and guaranteed dollars that comes with the sale of season passes, and hoped that many people would chose to purchase one. Joe also asked about the spectator fee and Cindy explained that a spectator takes up the same space that could be occupied by a full paying guest and it was a standard practice at most facilities to charge. Kent Vanderpool commented that he liked the idea of the punch cards if someone does not want to buy a pass and still have a good value. Cindy also explained that fees comparisons were done with facilities in the surrounding area and the fees recommended closely paralleled those for Nixa. The Nixa facility and programs are very similar to what will be offered by the new Branson recreation center. Cindy told members that the Nixa facility was at the break-even point with expenditures versus revenues. Joe remarked that it will be interesting to see how we compare to Nixa in the amount of people that we draw to the pool. Bev Martin commented that the fees appear very cost effective and Candy told Cindy that she and her staff had done a very good job. There was some discussion of "scholarship" possibilities, which Cindy said could be looked at as a possibility. Mark Sill asked about fees for using the gyms and running track and Cindy replied that she was not prepared to discuss those fees as she had focused on getting the swim fees put together for the brochure that is coming out. Candy commented that she would have to say if you were thinking of a place to move you would look at this and think it would be a great place. Kent Vanderpool made a motion to accept the staff recommendation for the fee proposal and Joe McDowell seconded the motion. All members were in favor. Cindy said she would discuss fees for other items in the upcoming meetings and reminded the members to share any ideas they might have for the grand opening.

Member's Report

1. Jeff Justus reported that 13 people attended the Moonwalk on December 26, and nine of those had not previously attended. He said that he was ready for the next walk and questioned why the trail stopped at the grotto? Cindy answered that she would get some information from Larry Vangilder.

Adjourned 6:15pm