

**OSSEO PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
December 2, 2024**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Osseo Parks & Recreation Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Kerstin Schulz at 6:00 p.m., Monday, December 2, 2024.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Committee members Kerstin Schulz, Dee Bonn, John Hall and Dan Penny

Absent: Committee members Dori Trossen, and Kara Wolf

Others present: Assistant City Administrator Alicia Vickerman and City Administrator Shane Mikkelson

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Bonn, seconded by Penny, to approve the meeting's agenda. The motion passed 4-0.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by Penny, seconded by Bonn, to approve the June 3, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed 4-0.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Schulz advised the public that this is the time for public comments. There were no public comments.

6. SPECIAL BUSINESS

There was no special business.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. DISCUSS PROPOSED 2025 PARKS AND RECREATION MEETING SCHEDULE

Vickerman stated for 2025, Staff is proposing a similar schedule to 2024, in which the Parks and Recreation Committee meets five times throughout the year. These will take place at 6:00 pm on the first Tuesdays of February, April, June, October, and December, those dates being:

- Tuesday, February 4, 2025
- Tuesday, April 1, 2025
- Tuesday, June 3, 2025
- Tuesday, October 7, 2025

- Tuesday, December 2, 2025

Vickerman requested the Committee discuss these dates and approve the proposed meeting schedule.

Further discussion ensued regarding whether meetings should be held on Monday or Tuesday nights.

Bonn stated she supported the meetings moving back to Tuesday nights.

A motion was made by Bonn, seconded by Penny, to approve proposed 2025 meeting schedule. The motion passed 4-0.

B. DISCUSS PROPOSED 2025 MUSIC AND MOVIES IN THE PARK EVENTS AND SCHEDULE

Vickerman stated every year, Music and Movies in the Park takes place on Tuesday nights between the end of the school year and the beginning of the next school year. Much like in 2023, there are 12 Tuesdays that occur during that time frame, though there are three dates which are set aside. These are:

- Tuesday, July 1- 4th of July week.
- Tuesday, August 5 – National Night to Unite.
- Tuesday, August 26 – Reserved as a rain date.

Vickerman reported this leaves 9 evenings to plan for, which is the same number as 2024. For the past several years the city has scheduled a performance and a movie each night. The response has been very positive and the events have had high attendance rates. Staff recommends continuing this but is asking the committee to discuss and confirm that it is still the preferred scheduling priority. If so, Staff will begin scheduling performances, with contracts finalized after formal budget/schedule approval by both the committee and City Council at their February meetings. Staff will confirm with Ed Columbus about returning as MC of the event series. In the past, the Parks and Recreation Committee has formed sub-committees to select movies, bands and other performers. The committee should discuss if this will be done again and this can be scheduled with staff.

Schulz stated it may benefit the City to use different equipment for the movies in June in order to push up the movie times so the events don't get too late.

Ed Columbus, resident of Osseo, requested the Park Committee consider finding another person to assist with hosting or emceeing the music and movies in the park events. He encouraged the Park Committee to consider speaking to local celebrities. He discussed how he solicited sponsors for last year's events which provided additional funding and gift cards. He reported he appreciated the band selection for last year noting the City was able to pull in great crowds for every event.

Schulz thanked Mr. Columbus for all that he does to host and find sponsors for the music and movie in the park events.

Penny volunteered to assist with selecting bands for 2025.

Bonn noted she was also willing to assist.

Schulz indicated she was willing to assist with selecting the movies for 2025. She noted Dori Trossen helped her with this task last year. Vickerman thanked the Park Committee for volunteering to assist with these tasks.

Bonn recommended staff look into purchasing a new screen for the movies in the park. She indicated another option would be to not hold movies in the month of June. She indicated another option would be to screen movies for younger children in June.

Mr. Columbus stated when the bands are present they tend to draw more of an adult crowd. He recommended the opening act or band be considered if children movies are going to be screened. He stated the puppy rescue group may be a nice option or a magician.

Schulz stated a magician or a balloon artist could be brought in for the kids. She believed it was important to provide both children and adult programming through these events.

Penny asked what the schedule would be for the music and movies in the park events. Vickerman reported events would be held on all Tuesdays during June, July and August, except July 1, August 5 and August 26 (rain date). She noted the first event would be held on June 10. She reported if movies were not held in June this would eliminate movies from the June 10, June 17 and June 24 dates. She indicated the first movie in the park would then be held on July 8.

Bonn indicated the farmers market does not start until after the 4th of July.

Penny questioned what the budget was for next year's music and movies in the park. Vickerman reported \$12,000 to \$15,000 was spent in 2024 and noted the fund had a balance that could cover all music and movies in the park events for 2025.

Schulz asked how the Committee was to proceed with this item. Vickerman stated she would like direction as to how many nights movies and music events would be held and what the event dates would be.

Penny stated he would like to be able to begin calling bands because they book up fast.

Schulz indicated the Committee could put a motion on the table to hold events on the dates proposed and directing staff to look into new movie screening equipment and activities for kids.

Bonn recommended calls be made to the bands in order to have them lined up for next year before they were booked for the summer. Vickerman indicated she could get Mr. Penny and Ms. Bonn a list of band contacts, as well as a list of bands that have reached out to her already.

A motion was made Bonn, seconded by Hall, to direct Dan Penny to begin lining up bands for the 2025 Music in the Park events on the dates proposed. The motion passed 4-0.

9. STAFF & COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Hall reported the school has finished installing their new playground. He encouraged the Committee members to visit this new park as it was very well done. He recommended the Committee continue to seek funding for new playground equipment at Sipe Park and to put improvements into the hockey rink. He suggested the surface under the hockey rink be paved and that the tennis courts be resurfaced and turned into pickleball courts. He also recommended additional federal funding be pursued for Boerboom Park.

Bonn noted the tennis courts had been striped for pickleball, but noted the pickleball equipment had been stolen.

Schulz recalled that the basketball court and tennis court improvements were included in the budget and had yet to be completed.

Mikkelson explained Public Works Director Waldbillig was working to get quotes for the tennis court improvements. He reported the City would be working with the school to ensure they supported the improvements. He stated he would bring bids back once they have been received by staff. He noted the City also had funds available in the CIP for park improvements. He reported the \$500,000 in grant funding goes away in 2030 and he wanted to take advantage of this funding.

Bonn questioned if the grant funding could be used for new play equipment at Sipe Park. Mikkelson explained the funding received by the City could only be utilized at Boerboom Park. He reported staff was working to better understand how the funds could be used by the City.

Bonn explained she had 40 people attending her strength class and noted her yoga classes was maintaining great attendance.

Penny supported the Committee taking a closer look at the youth sports that are being offered by the City given how attendance was declining.

Schulz supported this as well and suggested the City look to market these programs through the school district.

Penny indicated he would be willing to help Mr. Columbus out on securing donations for the music and movie in the park events for 2025.

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made Bonn, seconded by Hall, to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. The motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Guenther

Minute Maker Secretarial