

ST. CHARLES PARK & RECREATION BOARD MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING HELD

May 12th, 2022

The meeting was **Called to Order** by President Ryan at 5:00 pm in the American Legion Room at Memorial Hall in Blanchette Park. **Roll Call** noted the following present for the meeting:

Park Board - Denise Childress, Brad Harmon, Tuss Peluchette, Merle Schneider, Kathy Mudrovic, Mike Ryan, Tom Smith and Council Liaison Denise Mitchell were present. Patrick Caskey and Mike Hannegan were absent.

Others - Maralee Britton – Director, Chris Atkinson -Assistant Director, Don Borgmeyer – Enterprise Superintendent, Missy Hollander – Aquatics Coordinator, Sarah Shellberg – Assistant Aquatics Manager and Mike Wilkins Chief Park Ranger.

3. **Pledge of Allegiance**

4. **Summer Program Staffing Updates***

Following the initial discussion with the Board at the May 4th Work Session, staff at the Board's request provided the Board with seven different potential options for operating the aquatic facilities in 2022 for discussion.

Peluchette made a motion to close down the McNair Aquatic Facility permanently; seconded by Mudrovic. Peluchette then asked to withdraw his motion so that further discussion could take place on all the other options; seconded by Mudrovic.

Britton highlighted the seven different options.

Option 1. Operate all 3 facilities and programs.

Option 2. Close McNair for the 2022 season and reduce programs.

Option 3. Operate all 3 facilities. All closed on Mondays and reduce programs.

Option 4. Operate all 3 facilities. Close all early Monday – Thursday. Reduce/cancel programs.

Option 5. Operate all 3 facilities. Close all early Monday – Thursday.

Option 6. Operate all 3 facilities. Rotate closed slides, no swim lessons, no tiny tots.

Option 7. Operate all 3 facilities. Rotate closing amenities and features.

Staff recommendation was to go with Option 2 due the fact that it impacted the least amount of people/guests and does not impact the 2 newer, more well attended facilities.

Childress presented some information/suggestions on staffing hours and how to move staff around in order to keep the McNair facility open in 2022.

Smith felt that staff needed to better promote and market the McNair Aquatic Facility to the public. To focus on the benefits of the facility to certain populations. For example, individual with disabilities and families with younger children who do not want to go the busier facilities.

Peluchette said that he did not see any other way other than Option 2 due to the fact that there are currently only 85 guards hired. His concern was even being able to operate the Blanchette and Wapelhorst Aquatic facilities.

Harmon said that the Board has discussed closing the McNair facility since the aquatics master plan was completed in 2016. He did not see how the current staffing conditions would allow it to open in 2022.

Mudrovic also stated that the McNair facility has been planned to close at some point since the master plan was completed in 2016.

Schneider said that the information presented by staff and the current staffing concerns leave the only option as closing the McNair facility for the 2022 season.

Ryan stated that he was not in favor at all in closing down McNair facility for the 2022 season but understood with the current staffing concerns and circumstances there may not be any other option. He stated that he definitely was not in favor of closing down the McNair Aquatic Facility permanently at this point in time.

Harmon made a motion to close down the McNair Aquatic facility for the 2022 season and reduce programs where needed (option 2); seconded by Mudrovic.

Smith asked for a roll call vote.

Caskey – Absent, Childress – No, Hannegan – Absent, Harmon – Yes, Mudrovic – Yes, Peluchette – Yes, Ryan – Yes, Schneider – Yes, Smith – No.

Motion passed.

5. **Adopt a Park (Board Member observations pertinent to facilities, programs and services within the Parks and Recreation System)**

Councilperson Mitchell updated the Board on the status of the log cabin close to Wapelhorst Park. Currently she is reaching out to log cabin builders to see if there is any interest in the private sector to relocate or reuses the cabin wood.

Britton reminded the Board that at the May 18th meeting staff would have a draft of the presentation that would be used at the Joint Work Session with City Council on June 1st.

As there was no further business to discuss Childress moved for **Adjournment** at 6:05pm; Seconded by Smith.

Parks and Recreation Board Special Meeting May 12th, 2022

Respectfully Submitted,



Mike Ryan - President



Denise Childress - Secretary