

## PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

June 16, 2020  
Zoom Meeting 5:30 PM

Members Present; Juan Topete, Ceri Otero, Mike Daugherty, James Harrison

Members Absent;

Staff Present; Tom Short, Mark Peterson, Nate Dally, and Kailey Williams

Non-Members Present: Abi Almandinger, Craig Diggs

At 5:30 P.M., Mr. Topete called the meeting to order.

**Mr. Daugherty moved to approve minutes from the June 2020 meeting. Motion carried.**

### NEW BUSINESS:

**1. Consider and Discuss request from Kip Smith for Carthage Paddle Battle at Kellogg Lake.**

Mr. Peterson talked with Kip Smith about using Kellogg Lake for hosting the Paddle Battle. The topic was discussed briefly in the last meeting, but no formal vote was made. The set up would be the same as last year's Paddle Battle. We would provide a dumpster, trash barrels, picnic tables, create a launching area into Spring River, and provide help with set up. They had a good outcome last year, with the event raising about \$5500. We will block the roads for space and safety in the park. Mr. Harrison said Kip came and talked with Public Safety the night before. They talked about closing some gates and letting people through separate gates. Mr. Topete spoke and asked about cautions with COVID with the event. Mr. Harrison said it is an outdoor event, so social distancing should not be a problem. July 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> is the date that is set currently for the event to take place. Mr. Topete asked if there was going to be any fee associated with the event and if we would recoup any of the cost. Mr. Peterson said that the event would not have any fees. That was the set up last year. Mr. Harrison said that some events are under discussion about fee structures for all events. Mr. Daugherty does not think we can legally charge without a lawsuit. It would not be fair for some people who have paid and others who have not paid. Mr. Harrison said there would be more meetings in the future to approve other events. Mr. Daugherty made a motion to approve the Paddle Battle at Kellogg Lake on July 24<sup>th</sup> and July 25<sup>th</sup> for a vote by the entire council with no recommendation by the Public Services Committee. Mr. Harrison questioned why we would do that and stated the committee needs to provide a recommendation, and the council will still discuss it at the next meeting. Mr. Daugherty withdrew his original motion wanting to send it to the council for a further vote. Mr. Harrison believes that the vote should be sent to the council. Mr. Topete

approved the withdrawal of the motion.

**Mr. Harrison made a motion to approve the request from Kip Smith for Carthage Paddle Battle at Kellogg Lake to go to the City Council. Motion passed 3-1 with Mr. Topete voting against it.**

**2. Consider and discuss creating a policy for issuing permits for the closing of public properties for special events.**

Mr. Peterson visited with Tom Short about creating permits for the use of the City of Carthage properties, along with fee structures. Mr. Short noted that we wanted to set up an application for people who wish to use public property for events, and then we would issue a permit as a result of that. There would need to be further discussion on whether insurance policies would need to be in the requestors name, if it would be for minor or significant events, how we would work out restroom room situations which would pay, who would handle trash, how we would handle alcohol usage; they would all be in the permit. There would be a lot more control over the permits. Mrs. Otero noted that we need to have a system in place for the fees. Mr. Peterson said we would be evaluating the fee structure for the permitting and amenities. Mrs. Otero believes there should be a formal process for using public parks. Mr. Short noted that it would not be just limited to parks, but anything the City of Carthage owns would be added in. Mr. Peterson stated we are looking into some programs that will help with online reservations and park properties. Mr. Daugherty is on board with the idea, but he does not want to ruin anything with fees for people who haven't paid. Mr. Dally noted that we could not recover all of the costs. We need to look at the direct cost that we want to get back. Mr. Short stated it is not a moneymaker for the city; we just need to make up some of the cost. There will be a fine balance, and we need to find it. Mr. Topete noted that some people pay, and others do not. Mr. Peterson answered by saying yes that there are situations that some pay and others do not. We need consistency in all events related to fees.

## STAFF REPORTS

### **Parks and Recreation Director- Mark Peterson**

Mr. Peterson started with saying that there are concerns with some of the activities that are scheduled. There have been many people calling, wondering what is going on with the events. As far as answering the question, we are telling people the events are still happening. We will be providing signage and education of procedures for COVID-19 related safety.

Many people have called concerning July 4<sup>th</sup>, Jasper County Youth Fair, Food Truck Friday, and other large activities. We are telling people that the events are still happening.

Youth Leagues- Soccer is in the last week of games. Baseball finishes July 9<sup>th</sup> with the City Leagues and one tournament July 22-26. Softball has two more weeks and tournaments each weekend. Mr. Peterson spoke with some people telling them to go

ahead with everything and to keep implementing phase 1 rules. Mr. Peterson also asked that spectator guidance would follow a 2:1 ratio per player. We have put signage up around the areas letting people know in English and Spanish.

Memorial Hall- Mr. Peterson, Tom Short, and Mayor Rife all agreed that they should maintain the 25% capacity with the events until the local numbers suggest they move to full capacity.

Pools- The pool numbers have been staying consistent for the YMCA, and they have been staying within the 98-person capacity at Municipal and social distancing requirements at Central Park. Joplin opened up Schifferdecker this year, and it will be the only Joplin pool open for this year.

Kellogg Lake- Repairs are being made on the south railing at the Lake Pavilion. We are still working on finishing the pavilion on the north end. The Lake fountain is back up and running.

Demo Projects- All the demo projects are most likely going to be pushed back until the fall period. (Central Park bathroom, Shelter at municipal, and the driving range building)

Municipal Park- This week, we took out the backstops that were becoming a safety hazard. They began to rot and were very fragile. Some of the poles have already fallen over. Some of the teams have still been using the area for practices, and we are coordinating field time at Hallam and Fair Acres for those teams.

Freer- Some repairs are being made to some of the low spots. The repairs are on the north and south side of the east end of the drainage ditch. We received a complaint from a homeowner about a potential mosquito issue in those areas.

Griggs- This week, we are removing the concrete off the tennis courts. We are coordinating with our concrete contractor with his availability to move forward with the Pickle Ball Courts.

Central Park- Cleanup of the fountain took place recently. Drain work has been pushed back with complete repairs to the fountain drain to be done in the fall or winter after events are completed.

Fair Acres- When the boy's season ends, we will begin fence work through our contractor as long as everything with the capital projects are approved.

Civil War Museum- There has been a slight surge in numbers recently.

Golf Course- Golf numbers were down as expected. Zero events for May had the most significant impact on numbers. In June, we only have two events. July, August, September, and October are jammed with events postponed from April, May, and June. League activity began in the first week of June. Our expenditures are very low due to

staff changes and staffing levels at the pro shop. Mr. Peterson is going to have a second interview for the Golf Operations Supervisor later this week.

**Mr. Daugherty made a motion to move into closed at 6:43. Motion carried.**

**The committee meeting returned to the regular session at 6:54.**

**Mr. Daugherty made a motion to adjourn the meeting.**

**Motion Carried.**

**Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.**