

Park and Recreation Minutes

August 7th, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kacey Fahey. Also present were Nicole Bower, Amanda Stender, Lisa Klemmensen, Abraham Morales, Tanya Borchard, Eric Hanson and Dawn McCracken.

Empire Celebration 2025 was reviewed. It was recommended that the space between the petting zoo and the pine tree be increased to avoid the animals eating the tree. We received great feedback from our vendors. They love being part of our Celebration! Despite the Dakota County Fair happening at the same time as Celebration, we still had 558 attendees!

All of the food and supplies that had been bought for Celebration were reviewed with the following suggestions being made for next year:

- We only need 2 packs of wipes for face painters instead of 4 packs.
- Juice box quantities were spot on and need to remain the same for next year
- Next year we should buy 400 burgers. We did have 60 left over but it was suggested that next year we extend cooking time. It was also suggested that cooking begin earlier to have several made in advance. Grilling should be started no later than 5:00 and hotdogs started a bit later. We ran out of burgers on multiple occasions and had people waiting for next batch. We had 2 packs (48) of hotdogs left over
- We had 1 box of Snickers ice cream and 1 ½ box of popsicles (60) and no ice cream sandwiches left. The product boxes should remain on the serving table for people to read ingredients if need be
- Forks should be moved by chips and close to beans
- We had 3.5 packs of plates left over
- We had plenty of hand sanitizer left over which will be used for future events
- All beans and potato salad were eaten
- We had 2 ketchups, 1 mustard and 1 relish left-over
- There were 12 packs of hamburger buns left over (144) and 6 packs (72) hotdog buns left-over. This year many chose not to have a bun with their food
- It was recommended to buy off-brand chips instead of name brand next year for a cost saving. We had 4 boxes of chips left over
- We had 2 bags of suckers left. The library only went through 1 bag but we will hand out the additional at the FHS band concert and the Holiday party if any are left
- Next year it would be nice to have a basketball contest for the older kids

- We need a different power set-up for roasters next year. The small generator was not big enough for all 4 roasters
- The Parks and Rec Commission would like to invite Torro to bring down some of their big mowers for viewing next year
- Next year we would like to have a misting station or sprinkler hose running through event
- We need to source volunteers and have the Parks and Rec Committee each hold a shift during the event
- Next year we would like to invite both the Planning Commission and City Council to sign up for shifts to cook as well as serve the food
- Next year we will reconsider the date for 2026 since the traditional date will conflict with the Dakota County fair again and we want to avoid that for future Celebrations

The Parks and Recreation Commission would like to thank our Maintenance and office staff for all the advanced event preparation and set up!