

AMES PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
City Hall Council Chambers – 515 Clark Avenue
Thursday, October 19, 2023

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC: The Parks and Recreation Commission welcomes comments from the public during discussion. The Standards of Decorum, posted at the door and available on the City website, define respectful conduct for public participation. If you wish to speak, please complete a green card and hand it to City staff prior to the meeting. When your name is called, please step to the microphone, state your name and address for the record, and limit the time used to present your remarks to three minutes so others have the opportunity to speak. The normal process on an agenda item is staff may first give a report on the item, Commissioners may ask questions for clarification, public input is received, a motion is placed on the floor, the Commission discusses the issue or responds to the audience concerns, and the vote is taken. In consideration of all, if you have a cell phone, please turn it off or put it on silent.

1. Call to Order: 4:00 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes from September 21, 2023
3. Public Forum (For items not on the agenda)
4. Decorum Policy for City Meetings
5. Furman Aquatic Center 2023 Season Review
6. Approve Dog Park Fees for 2024 Season
7. 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Plan Discussion
8. Project Updates
 - a. Fitch Family Indoor Aquatic Center
 - b. Steven L. Schainker Plaza
 - c. Sands-McDorman Property
9. Monthly Report
10. Commission Member Comments
11. Next Meeting:
 - a. Thursday, November 16 at 4:00 PM (Regular Meeting)
12. Adjournment

AMES PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: September 21, 2023

COMMISSION

PRESENT: Jeremy Bristow, Sarah Cady, Rachel Cramer, Duane Reeves, Nathan Shimanek, Jeff White

ABSENT: Thyra Cox

STAFF PRESENT: Keith Abraham, Courtney Kort, Joshua Thompson

CALL TO ORDER: 4:01 PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 17, 2023

Bristow moved, second by Cramer, to approve the August 17, 2023, meeting minutes. No discussion. No opposition. Motion Approved

PUBLIC FORUM

Merle Brendeland (Stated address as Huxley)

Brendeland stated he was representing the Ames pickleball group, who are applying for a grant that could provide \$16,000 to improve the pickleball courts. Mr. Brendeland requests help from Staff with the grant application and a letter from Parks and Recreation stating that Staff would work with the pickleball group on selecting the furniture or other items for pickleball court improvement; however, the funding would come from the pickleball club.

Abraham reminded the Commission that they can take no action on items presented during the Public Forum but can provide some direction to staff in the Commission Member Comments portion of the meeting.

2024-2029 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN DISCUSSION

Abraham explained the process and timeline for the development of the plan. He also reminded the Commission of the differences between the Operations Budget and the Capital Improvement Plan and how each is funded.

Abraham stated that there is a backlog of projects to complete and funding shortfalls for two other projects - the proposed splash pad in Daley Park and the consolidation of park maintenance facilities. Parks and Recreation staff will meet with the City Manager and Finance staff regarding these projects. Some or all of the year-one projects may be moved back to accommodate the completion of the current projects.

Abraham shared the suggestions received at the public input session, suggestions received via email, and from the Parks and Recreation staff. Some of these proposed projects are not necessarily CIP, Parks and Recreation, or even City items.

White is thrilled to see the emphasis on the state water trail, including improving and updating water access. He is particularly interested in having an access located at South 16th Street.

Cramer asked Abraham about the way that we advertise the public input session. She wanted to know if attendees stated how they learned about the meeting.

Abraham stated he didn't ask that question. Abraham said he gathered the participants' email addresses to follow up on some of their questions. He will ask at that time.

White informed Abraham the meeting information was shared with many paddlers from Skunk River Paddlers.

Cady stated she thought some neighborhood associations could have shared it, too.

Reeves asked for an update regarding the sculpture in Ada Hayden. Abraham stated the artist had a new idea about mounting the sculptures. The piece could still be installed this fall.

Shimanek expressed that Staff and Commission must look at the high-cost/low-usage vs. low-cost/high-usage projects. He feels toddlers can have fun with a glorified sprinkler and didn't know how we got from that to a \$1.2 million splash pad. He feels we could build a simple splash pad, and kids would still have fun.

Abraham stated that the splash pad is not extravagant and is probably like one you would see in Ankeny or other communities. Abraham explained that the Council directed Staff to use a recirculation water system for this project. All the extra costs are due to the restroom and shower facilities required by the state of Iowa when using this type of system.

Shimanek stated that the high use of the skate park should make it a priority for maintenance and repair.

Cady feels that this is one of the challenges we face. All of the amenities in the park system have had more and more use in the last few years, adding to maintenance costs.

Abraham says everything costs money, so we have to be strategic.

Cramer asked for clarification regarding the splash pad and the restrooms. Abraham stated that the recirculating water system chosen by the Ames City Council has a state requirement for restroom and shower facilities. Those facilities must be within 200 feet and have a clear site line to the splash pad.

Shimanek asked if vandalism had prompted the addition of cameras at the Bandshell. Abraham stated there have been issues with undesirable activities in the restroom facilities and on the stage. These activities take a lot of extra time for Staff to clean as there have been feces, vomit, trash, and other issues. The installation of a stage gate and security cameras is due to a combination of things happening in the park.

Cady asked if any restrooms lock automatically at night. Thompson stated that the bathrooms in Inis Grove and Bandshell Park lock at night, and when completed, the Schainker Plaza restrooms will also.

River Valley and Brookside are in the floodplain and therefore not good locations for automatic door locks.

Reeves stated that he has read that in some communities, the costs of some parks are just too much for their budgets, and therefore, they are divesting some of their park property that developers can fill. He wanted to know if there were any underperforming parks that the city could clear out of the portfolio and sell.

Abraham stated that there have been no conversations of that nature. Staff is trying to be smarter on how we do things. Abraham noted that overall, Ames residents are proud of their parks. Public meetings would need to be held before any parkland could be sold.

Cady said a lot of parkland is in the floodplain and not available for development. From a watershed perspective, she would not want to see land diverted back into farmland. She believes the most significant concern when divesting underutilized parkland is disadvantaging a group of people in that neighborhood.

Johan Golchin spoke about the history behind the acquisition of Munn Woods. He was discussing a private parcel connecting Munn Woods to Emma McCarthy Lee and would like to see a path created over this parcel.

Cady informed the gentleman after quite some time that this would not be a CIP item. Abraham told the gentleman that he would be willing to meet with him after the meeting regarding his request.

Abraham gave an update regarding the donation of 1000 Jarrett Circle to Parks and Recreation. The recommended clarifications to the agreement have been completed, and it is going to Council next week.

PROJECT UPDATES

Fitch Family Indoor Aquatic Center

Abraham informed the Commission that the project is progressing with the design team working on finishes. Abraham also reported to the Commission that the Story County Board of Supervisors has agreed to pay \$500,000 toward the project in exchange for the inclusion of all residents of Story County to pay the resident fee designation for ten years.

Steven L. Schainker Plaza

Abraham pointed out that more construction activity is happening at the location, and just a couple of items are left to resolve.

Sands-McDorman Property

Abraham informed the Commission that the property sale has not closed as a document is missing from the file. The closing will have to wait until the seller adds that document to the file. Abraham stated that staff will need to remove some fencing and hazard trees from the property and a short-term plan developed for maintenance and use before the land is open to the public. Abraham informed the Commission that a class from Iowa State is using this land as their semester project.

MONTHLY REPORT

Kort informed the Commission that the Ice Arena will be reopening on Monday. She urges everyone to come out and see the new mural completed during the shutdown.

Furman Aquatic Center had a great year.

The 5th & Clark Concert series can fund twelve concerts this year compared to six last year due to a grant from the Iowa Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Thompson stated that the Emma McCarthy Lee court project will begin on Tuesday. The Inis Grove restroom is being renovated from the fire damage and will be open at the end of October.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Bristow moved, second by Cramer, to direct Staff to draft a letter of support for the Ames Pickleball Club to attach to their grant application. No discussion. No opposition. Motion Approved

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, October 19 at 4:00 PM (Regular Meeting)

ADJOURNMENT: Bristow moved to adjourn 5:21 PM

Staff Report

PUBLIC MEETING STANDARDS FOR DECORUM

October 19, 2023

BACKGROUND:

On March 22, 2022, the City Council requested that a memo from staff be placed on a future Council agenda regarding standards for decorum at public meetings. Having a clear set of rules in place for conduct at meetings ensures: 1) that participant expectations have been made clearly known, and 2) that follow-up actions can be taken to address behaviors that violate these expectations, if necessary.

On August 8, 2023, staff presented a proposed set of standards to the City Council. The City Council provided feedback which required modifications to be made. The attached list contains the proposed standards as revised by the City Council at that meeting.

Public participation in decision-making is an important aspect of government in Ames. The proposed Standards for Decorum emphasize the need to respect other participants in public meetings. In maintaining a respectful and constructive discussion, the goal is that community members with interest in City business will be welcome to participate in the process.

City Council adopted these standards at its September 12 meeting. These standards are now in place for City Council, City Boards, and City Commissions to follow.

City of Ames Public Meeting Standards for Decorum

The Ames City Council is committed to respectful, participatory dialogue regarding issues facing the community. In City Council meetings and other City proceedings, it is expected that members of the public respect one another by following these standards for decorum:

1. The time for each speaker may be limited at the discretion of the Chairperson to ensure an opportunity for each person to be heard. Please conclude your remarks before the time limit has been reached. Unless permitted by the Chairperson, it is only allowed for each speaker to offer remarks once per agenda item.
2. Remarks should be focused on matters of City policy and City business. At no time is it appropriate to use profane, obscene, or slanderous language, or to engage in personal attacks against City officials or members of the public.
3. To ensure an orderly discussion, comments should be delivered from the podium and addressed to the City Council dais, not the gallery (audience). It is not appropriate to speak from the gallery or to applaud or make other gestures that interfere with the proceedings, unless invited by the meeting chair to do so.
4. The public may approach the dais only for the purpose of passing materials to City staff for distribution around the dais.
5. Audience members may stand so long as they are not obstructing the view of others or interfering with the ability of others to participate in the meeting. At no time is it appropriate to stand on tables or chairs.
6. To ensure other attendees and broadcast viewers are able to see the proceedings, signs and posters are permitted if they are held in a manner that does not obstruct others' views of the proceedings. Signs and posters may not contain profane, obscene, or slanderous content, or content that personally attacks a City official or member of the public. If a speaker wishes to refer to a drawing or text, they may request that a staff person place the document on the projector during the discussion.
7. Attendees are not required to wear formal attire. However, it is expected that clothing and footwear are worn, and that they are worn in a manner that is respectful of the proceedings and of others. Attire must be worn so as to not distract from, interfere with, or obstruct the proceedings or other attendees.
8. Out of respect to all, mobile phones and other devices must be silenced. Side conversations during meetings should be avoided. If you have to engage in a conversation or answer a call, please step into the hallway.
9. The Chairperson has discretion to interpret and enforce these standards and may announce modifications to them as necessary to ensure orderly proceedings.

FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER
2023 User Survey

Executive Summary

After completion of the summer season, a survey was e-mailed to season pass and punch card holders, included within the Parks & Recreation weekly newsletter, and posted on the Parks & Recreation Facebook page to generate feedback. A total of 438 responses were collected, an increase of 34% from the 2022 survey. Percentages below are expressed by those respondents who elected to answer.

To incentivize survey participation, individuals had the option to be included in a drawing for a free 2024 season pass upon completion.

The following data and highlights were provided:

| General Operations | 2023: Always or Regularly | Change from 2022 |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Facility was professionally operated. | 94% | +2% |
| Rules are consistently enforced. | 81% | +1% |
| Facility is safe. | 97% | +1% |
| Staff members are friendly and helpful. | 91% | +5% |

| Rate the job performance of the following staff members: | 2023: Excellent or Good | Change from 2022 |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Lifeguard Staff | 95% | 0% |
| Shift Leaders | 98% | +3% |
| Admission/Concession Staff | 95% | -1% |

| Rate the following: | 2023: Excellent or Good | Change from 2022 |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Rate the quality of the facility. | 95% | 0% |
| Rate the cleanliness of the facility. | 95% | 0% |
| Rate the cleanliness of the locker rooms. | 76% | 0% |
| Information was effectively communicated. | 85% | 0% |

| Did you participate in any of the following special programs? Select all that apply. | Number of Responses | Response Percentage |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Open Swim | 264 | 62% |
| Water Walking | 260 | 61% |
| Lap Swimming | 100 | 23% |
| Tot Time | 99 | 23% |
| Swim Lessons | 55 | 13% |
| Wibit Inflatable Obstacle Course | 50 | 11% |

| | | |
|---------------------|----|-----|
| Aqua Aerobics | 25 | 5% |
| Adaptive Open Swim | 5 | 1% |
| Early Bird Lap Swim | 11 | 2% |
| Water Polo | 2 | 0% |
| Twilight Swim | 56 | 13% |
| Log Rolling | 2 | 0% |
| Conquer the Current | 7 | 1% |
| Princess Party | 9 | 2% |
| Superhero Party | 11 | 2% |

| I am a | Number of Responses | Response Percentage |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| Family Season Pass Holder | 167 | 38% |
| Individual Season Pass Holder | 161 | 37% |
| Visit Card Holder (12 for the price of 11) | 42 | 9% |
| Daily Pool User (no pass or visit card) | 63 | 14% |

| Season Pass Purchase in 2024 | Yes | *No |
|--|-----|-----|
| If prices are approximately the same in 2024, do you plan on purchasing a season pass next year? | 79% | 21% |

***If answered no, summary of explanations why.**

- Only a few visits
- Price
- Don't go enough
- Will buy punch card instead

October 19, 2023

STAFF REPORT
Furman Aquatic Center

SEASON SUMMARY:

The goal of 2023 was to continue providing a safe swimming environment and quality aquatic experience for patrons. Staff strives to serve the public with high standards and expectations to assist in achieving this goal. This report highlights several achievements from this past season.

Off-season pool maintenance and facility improvements were completed to contribute to a quality customer experience. The ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system received new bulbs which provides better effectiveness in eliminating bacteria and pathogens in the recreation pool. Free chlorine sensors were added to the chemical controllers which allowed staff to better control and monitor the chlorine usage in all three basins (50-meter, lazy river, recreation pool).

The Furman Aquatic Center season spanned 101 days, May 27-September 4. During this time, inclement weather caused the facility to be closed portions of the day on 12 occasions, closed early due to low attendance 4 days, and Tot Time was cancelled 11 days due to low temperatures.

Over the course of the summer, deck operations employed 86 lifeguards, 40 swim instructors, 6 deck shift leaders, and 1 head deck shift leader. Admission/Concessions employed 22 cashiers, 3 shift leaders, and 1 head shift leader. In total, Furman Aquatic Center filled 159 positions with 133 staff members during the 2023 season.

STAFF RECRUITMENT:

Several hiring events were held throughout the spring of 2023 to recruit staff for the upcoming season. A "Hiring Tailgate" event was held at Homewood Golf Course in March

which allowed prospective applicants to learn about upcoming job opportunities within the Parks and Recreation Department, including Furman Aquatic Center.

Specific lifeguard hiring events were also held at Iowa State Forker Pool which allowed candidates the ability to apply, interview, complete the lifeguard pre-skills requirements, and complete a portion of the required new hire paperwork, all at once. This sped up the hiring process and got new lifeguard staff in certification classes earlier, resulting in them becoming eligible to work sooner. These hiring events will be continued for the 2024 season, with the goal to begin recruitment events earlier.

In Fall 2023 a new class was also introduced to for future lifeguards, the Lifeguard Prep Course. This class is designed to assist those ages 14 and up who have an interest in becoming a lifeguard, but unsure of their swim skills that are required to pass the pre-requisite skills of lifeguard certification. This class focuses on developing swim skills and endurance to assist interested individuals to pass the lifeguard course pre-requisite skills and advance to enrollment into a lifeguard certification course. This course was created because over the past few years there has become an apparent decline in interested lifeguard candidates' ability to pass the pre-requisite requirements. This class is designed to provide dedicated pool time to practice these skills and build swimming endurance prior to the summer season.

STAFF TRAINING:

While training deck staff (lifeguards and swim instructors), an emphasis was placed on cross training staff to be able to serve as both lifeguards and swim instructors, as opposed to only one. This provided staff the opportunity to gain more knowledge and skills, along with the ability to gain more hours. Operationally, more swim instructors can result in offering more swim lessons and more lifeguards reduces the number of times the facility has to close amenities, basins, or reduce hours due to limited lifeguard staff availability. In all, a total of 26 deck staff held dual position titles as a swim instructor and lifeguard.

Iowa State Forker Pool was used heavily in the winter and spring to train deck staff prior to the 2023 Furman season. Having a pool space to train staff prior to Furman opening is key in being able to fully staff Furman Aquatic Center at the beginning of the season. In the pre-season and throughout the season, 62 of the 86 total lifeguards were certified or re-certified as American Red Cross Lifeguards.

IN-SERVICE RECERTIFICATIONS:

Furman lifeguard staff are required to attend weekly in-service training throughout the summer season. This year, staff implemented lifeguard recertification skills within these in-services, which allowed many of the lifeguard staff to complete the recertification process through their in-service trainings. This will significantly reduce the number of recertification classes that will be required for returning lifeguard staff during the offseason and eliminate the additional expense of renting a pool facility. Concentration can then be focused on training and certifying new staff to be ready for the summer.

SCHEDULING:

Scheduling 80+ lifeguards, with varying schedules, can become difficult at times. To provide more consistency in scheduling this year, lifeguard shifts were better defined, and lifeguard staff were required to commit to a set schedule throughout the summer. The benefit of this model allowed the deck staff a more consistent work schedule, which allows them to be able to plan around their work schedule and provide a better work/life balance with set days off.

As a result, lifeguard staff worked an average of 15 hours per week during the 14-week season.

END OF SEASON FACILITY OPERATIONS:

Furman Aquatic Center is one of the few aquatic centers in Iowa that operates until Labor Day, while some communities close their pools and aquatics centers once school begins. Other aquatic centers that remain open through Labor Day (Iowa City and Noelridge in Cedar Rapids) offer reduced hours and programs during the week and on weekends.

This season lifeguards made up 54% of the total positions and 68% of the total employees were between the ages of 14-17. Annually, Furman Aquatic Center experiences a drastic decline in staff availability beginning the second week of August through the end of the season (September 4). Of the total 159 staff employed at Furman during the summer of 2023, 23 lifeguards and 16 admission/concession staff remained on staff through the end of the season with varying times of availability.

The facility schedule only had to be altered 15 days because of insufficient staffing levels. Examples of changes to the schedule are closing an amenity and/or basin or changing hours of operation. All these days, except one, were from August 1-September 4. Although staffing will continue to be a challenge mid-August to Labor Day each year, staff will continually evaluate strategies to minimize this challenge.

GUARD OF THE WEEK:

To recognize the hard work of the lifeguard staff, new elements were introduced within the Guard of the Week Program. A new lifeguard tube was purchased that is awarded to the selected Guard of the Week to proudly display while they are on deck during their shift. The recipient also gets a certificate signed by the Director of Parks and Recreation recognizing their efforts. The Guard of the Week is also announced on the Furman Aquatic Center Facebook page. Guard of the Week candidates are nominated by their peers and shift leaders, along with input from management. Guard of the Week recipients are also displayed in the down guard room throughout the season. Next season an emphasis will be to expand this employee recognition program to encompass other positions at the facility, like swim instructors, shift leads, and admission/concession staff.

ATTENDANCE:

Furman Aquatic Center total attendance was 89,129 for 2023. This is a 13% increase from 2022. The end of season attendance ranks sixth highest in season attendance among the facilities 13 operating seasons and the highest since 2015 (93,598). The monthly breakdown and totals for the past five years is shown below.

| Year | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Average* |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Season Dates | May 25- Sep 2 | N/A | May 29- Sept 6 | May 28- Sept 5 | May 27- Sept 4 | Last four operating years |
| May | 2,412 | 0 | 560 | 1,763 | 4,691 | 2,356 |
| June | 24,674 | 0 | 27,583 | 27,745 | 26,959 | 26,740 |
| July | 31,874 | 0 | 30,456 | 29,356 | 30,936 | 30,655 |
| Aug | 16,781 | 0 | 23,475 | 17,993 | 21,588 | 19,959 |
| Sep | 1,830 | 0 | 2,182 | 2,061 | 4,955 | 2,757 |
| Total | 77,571 | 0 | 84,256 | 78,918 | 89,129 | 82,468 |

*Average does not include 2020, as the facility was closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Admission by payment types over the past five years is shown below.

| Payment Type | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Average* |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Daily Admission | 41% | 0% | 41% | 36% | 37% | 39% |
| Punch Card | 4% | 0% | 3% | 5% | 4% | 4% |
| Season Pass | 55% | 0% | 56% | 59% | 59% | 57% |

*Average does not include 2020, as the facility was closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The history of season pass and punch card sales is illustrated in the following table. Please note that a family pass counts as one pass sold but has multiple people included on the pass. The total number of people with a season pass illustrates the total number of people with a pass, including those additional family members listed on a family pass.

| Pass Type | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Average* |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Adult (16+) | 228 | - | 248 | 203 | 240 | 230 |
| Family | 914 | - | 810 | 838 | 856 | 855 |
| Senior Citizen (62+) | 307 | - | 332 | 345 | 356 | 335 |
| Youth (1-15) | 264 | - | 221 | 255 | 251 | 248 |
| Total # of People with a Season Pass | 5,618 | - | 5,384 | 5,099 | 5,097 | 5,300 |
| Punch Pass | 314 | - | 235 | 335 | 238 | 281 |

*Average does not include 2020, as the facility was closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the third season, End of Season Passes were sold at 30% of the original price for the last third of the season; these passes were valid August 1-September 5. A total of 64 passes were sold. Last year staff sold 49 total passes, representing a 37% increase in sales. This continues to be a successful promotion and is planned to continue in 2024.

| Year | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Average |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| End of Season Pass Sales | 55 | 49 | 64 | 56 |

CONCESSIONS:

Furman Aquatic Center operates every day during open swim, totaling 41.5 hours per week. Cashier staff, like deck staff, are cross trained to work both the admissions gate and concessions. The total amount of sales in 2023 was \$83,505. The table below shows the last five years of concession sales.

| Year | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Average |
|---------------------|----------|--------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Season Total | \$72,716 | \$0.00 | \$90,803 | \$93,341 | \$83,505 | \$85,091 |

*Average does not include 2020, as the facility was closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

RENTALS:

The 2023 season had 34.75 private rental hours. While this was down compared to last season's 39.5 private rental hours, it matched the current 4-year average of 34.19 rental hours per season.

| Year | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Average |
|--------------|------|------|------|------|--------------|---------|
| Hours | 15.5 | - | 47 | 39.5 | 34.75 | 34.19 |

*Average does not include 2020, as the facility was closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

EVENTS SUMMARY:

Wibit AquaTrack and Wiggle Bridge: These inflatable obstacle course pieces were again offered most Saturdays throughout the season. From 5:30-8:00 PM, the diving boards and drop slide were closed for the Wibit inflatables to be used. This was a very popular activity with a wide age range of participants from youth to adult.

Sun Safety Day: Mary Greeley Medical Center, William R. Bliss Cancer Center, and McFarland Clinic sponsored an annual Sun Safety Day on June 23, 2023, from 1 – 5 PM. The event featured tips to keep patrons safe in the sun, UV protection checks for sunglasses, and drawings for fun prizes.

Conquer the Current: This event is walking or running against the current completing 19 laps (2-miles) in the lazy river. The event was held on Saturday, August 5, 2023, from 8 AM – 10:30 AM with a total of 31 participants.

Superhero Pool Party: A party for children and their families with Superheroes complete with a themed craft, food, drink, and swimming. The event was held on Saturday, July 15, 2023, from 8:30 AM – 10 AM with a total of 21 participants.

RAGBRAI: RAGBRAI had an overnight stop in Ames on Tuesday, July 25, 2023. Many RAGBRAI participants came to Furman to swim and/or take advantage of the showers, throughout the day. Total non-resident admission was 743.

DMACC Day: On Tuesday, July 18, 2023, from 1 PM – 3 PM, Des Moines Area Community College sponsored half off admission and free ice cream for the first 100 patrons. Unfortunately, weather conditions were not ideal and affected the total number of patrons at the facility this day. A total of 48 patrons were able to receive discounted admission to the facility and all 100 ice creams were distributed.

Princess Pool Party: A fun party for children and their families, complete with princesses, a themed craft, food, drinks, and swimming. The event was held on Saturday, June 17, 2023, from 8:30 AM – 10 AM with a total of 75 registered participants.

Scholarship Duck Derby:

The first Scholarship Duck Derby was hosted at Furman Aquatic Center on the final day of the season, Monday, September 4. Over 800 rubber ducks were released down the tube slide into lazy river. The ducks completed one lap in the lazy river. A total of 18 local businesses provided prizes for the top 43 places and generated \$4,535 in total revenue.

SWIM LESSONS:

A total of eight swim instructors were certified as American Red Cross Water Safety Instructors (WSI) this summer. Certifying instructors as a WSI is key to building a quality swim lesson program. The WSI course consists of 30 hours of hands-on training and approximately 8-10 hours of online training to learn how to best teach individuals 6 months

of age through adulthood how to swim. In order to provide WSI participants a better training experience, staff worked with the Boys and Girls Club to have its youth receive free swim lessons. This assisted staff by having an actual person to teach to during the certification class.

Summer swim lessons were offered June 12-August 3 for those 6-month to adult, with a total of 840 registrations. Four morning swim lesson sessions were offered, Monday-Thursday, while two evening sessions were offered on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

Below are some of the comments received from surveys that were sent to participants at the completion of each session.

- “Improved swim skills and enthusiasm to return.”
- “Instructors spent a lot of time on the skills and working individually with kids.”
- “Making sure students improved at each class time with skills that needed work. Our child is more familiar with the pool and comfortable being in the water.”
- “The most important thing for my son was that it was fun and encouraging. He was eager to go back each day and that’s not always the case with him.”
- “No pressure was put on the swimmer to perform skills, but encouragement was given!”

SAFETY:

Red Shirt Drills: Three red shirt drills were conducted during the season (Thursday, July 13; Friday, July 28; and Wednesday, August 9). These drills present examples of emergency scenarios and train staff how to properly respond and provide aid. Mary Greeley EMS, Ames Fire Department, and Ames Police Department also participate in these drills, so everyone has a better understanding of roles and responsibilities from each entity during an emergency.

Staff and the public are made aware when Red Shirt Drill will be conducted through press releases, social media posts, notifications to staff, etc., but not provided detail information on which scenario will be presented, who the “victim” will be, time the drill will take place, or the specific location.

After the drill, staff and the emergency partners debrief and provide feedback. This training is invaluable to staff, emergency community partners, and the public in understanding and demonstrating the roles of all parties in the event of a true emergency.

Rescues/Medical Emergencies: Staff responded to 38 rescues/medical emergencies at Furman Aquatic Center. These emergencies range from water rescues, seizures, and heat-related emergencies. All emergencies were conducted in a timely and professional manner and did not require medical transportation to the hospital.

The majority of rescues were conducted in the deep end of the 50-meter (13-feet) at the landing of diving board and platform and at the exit of the drop slide. The demographics of the majority of individuals rescued were adult men between the ages of 20-30 years. After collecting this information, staff will strategically place additional universal language signage around these areas with the hope to decrease the number of rescues in the future.

SURVEY RESULTS:

After the conclusion of the season, the public was invited to complete a survey regarding the 2023 season. The survey was sent to 1,621 passholders via email, included in the Parks and Recreation Newsletter on multiple occasions (over 12,728 people), and was posted to the Parks and Recreation and Furman Aquatic Center social media pages. A total of 438 responses were submitted, which is a 34% increase from 2022.

See Attachment A for an Executive Summary of the survey.

Patron quotes from the survey:

- “Loved the Twilight Swim”
- “Loved the daily temperature information and schedule on FB”
- “I love water walking”
- “There’s something for the whole family”
- “The most fun facility and staff”
- “I enjoyed the extended evenings of water walking”
- “My kids love the floating obstacle course” (WiBit)
- “It is a fantastic resource for Ames”
- Enjoy the “friendliness of staff”
- “A great waterpark for our little town!”
- “Great family friendly spot”
- “I love the lazy river for exercise”
- “I love that the old and young feel welcome and safe”
- Enjoy “the diversity: seeing all of Ames using it”
- “Great place to spend time”
- “The staff are all so friendly and helpful”
- “Admissions staff is wonderful. Always appreciate them commenting as I leave “thanks for coming!”, “have a good day!”
- “You have some amazing staff members! Those that work hard, enforce rules and keep us safe make it our go to summer activity.”
- “Staff always ready to answer any questions.”
- “Love our aquatic center “
- “Thank you for all you do. Happy to have a pool that stays open through Labor Day! Love the addition of twilight swim.”
- “We are so lucky to have this”



Furman Aquatic Center

September 6 · 🌐



The traditional end of season photo with the lifeguard crew that made up the final shift of the season on Monday, September 4. It was hot, it was busy, but it was fun!

Thank you to all the individuals that served as 2023 Furman Aquatic Center staff - Admission/Concession Shift Leaders, Admission/Concessions Cashiers, Swim Instructors, Deck Shift Leaders, and Lifeguards.

See you in 2024!



FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER
IS **CLOSED**
FOR THE SEASON



COMMISSION ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: 2024 DOG PARK FEES

BACKGROUND:

Fees and Charges for Parks and Recreation programs, activities, facilities, and services are approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission in January of each year. One exception to this is Dog Park fees, as permits are good for the calendar year and are sold beginning in December of the year prior.

In early 2023, access controls were added to the entry gate of the Dog Park. Each passholder enters the dog park by using an app on their cellular phone. Comments received about the system have been very positive and animal control has had to respond to very few issues at the park compared to past years. All dogs entering the facility are still required to have all the necessary paperwork as well as a tag on their collar.

**DOG PARK
PROPOSED 2024 FEE SCHEDULE**

| | | First Dog | Additional Dog |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Resident | January - December | \$62 | \$31 |
| Resident | April – December | \$48 | \$24 |
| Resident | July – December | \$32 | \$16 |
| Non - Resident | January – December | \$78 | \$39 |
| Non – Resident | April – December | \$64 | \$32 |
| Non – Resident | July – December | \$48 | \$24 |

DAILY PASS FEES

| | First Dog | Additional Dog |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Resident | \$6 | \$3 |
| Non – Resident | \$8 | \$4 |

WEEKLY PASS FEES

| | First Dog | Additional Dog |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Resident | \$12 | \$6 |
| Non - Resident | \$16 | \$8 |

Following is additional information regarding Dog Park permits and proposed fees:

- The following permits/passes have been sold in 2023

- 730 annual permits
- 50 daily/weekly passes
- Permit fees were last raised in 2022
- 2024 Dog Park permits will go on sale December 1, 2023
- Once purchased, the permit can be used immediately
- There are no fee changes to the daily and weekly passes.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the proposed Dog Park fees for 2024 as stated above.
2. Approve the 2024 Dog Park fees remain the same as in 2023.
3. Refer back to staff

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The dog park is a very popular amenity within the park system and the addition of the access control system has been well received. However, costs have increased for utilities and overall maintenance of the facility. Therefore, staff recommends the Commission approve Alternative 1 as stated above.



Caring People ♦ Quality Programs ♦ Exceptional Service

TO: Keith Abraham, Director of Parks and Recreation
FROM: Staff
RE: Monthly Report October 2023

PARKS AND FACILITIES:

1. Staff completed painting the soccer fields and grooming the softball fields at North and South River Valley for the final time this season.
2. Staff completed minor fence repairs and turf maintenance at the Dog Park during the annual shutdown in mid-September.
3. Staff is in the final stages of winterizing the Furman Aquatic Center and will start winterizing restrooms, water fountains, and irrigation systems in the next few weeks.
4. Gabbi Edwards, City Forester, submitted a grant application to the United States Forest Service (USFS) to assist with timber stand improvements within the parks, complete a new tree inventory, construct a gravel bed nursery, increase the number of trees planted in the City, and hire additional seasonal staff. The City received notification recently that it has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$813,000 to be used over the next five years.

RECREATION PROGRAMS:

1. The Ames/ISU Ice Arena reopened on Monday, September 25 after an extended maintenance period.
2. After opening September 25, the Ames/ISU Ice Arena held 4 Public Skates with 87 skaters, 5 Figure Free sessions with 19 participants, and 4 Stick and Helmet sessions with 25 participants.
3. Ads on Boards Company, along with Ice Arena staff and the volunteer efforts of the Ames Minor Hockey Association (AMHA) High School Team, completed board and glass cleaning at the arena September 23-24.
4. Homewood Golf Course had 3,036 rounds played in September. This is an increase of 5% from September 2023 (2,886 rounds).
5. A new session of West Coast Swing began on September 11 with 13 participants.

6. A new session of Yoga Basics began on September 10, with seven participants.
7. A new session of Healthy Foot class began September 12 with eight participants.
8. Fall swim lessons began at ISU Forker Pool at the end of September. Swim lesson classes are offered on Sunday afternoons, Monday/Wednesday evenings, and Tuesday/Thursday evenings. The first session had a total of 123 registrations. A second session is scheduled to begin the week of October 29.
9. Below is a table highlighting the Furman Aquatic Center attendance for the past five seasons. Attendance in 2023 was 13% higher than 2022 and ranks as the sixth highest attendance in Furman's 13 years of operation.

| | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Average |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Season Dates | May 25 - Sept 2 | N/A | May 29 - Sept 6 | May 28 - Sept 5 | May 27 - Sept 4 | Last four operating years |
| May | 2,412 | 0 | 560 | 1,763 | 4,691 | 2,356 |
| June | 24,674 | 0 | 27,583 | 27,745 | 26,959 | 26,740 |
| July | 31,874 | 0 | 30,456 | 29,356 | 30,936 | 30,655 |
| Aug | 16,781 | 0 | 23,475 | 17,993 | 21,588 | 19,959 |
| Sep | 1,830 | 0 | 2,182 | 2,061 | 4,955 | 2,757 |
| Total | 77,571 | 0 | 84,256 | 78,918 | 89,129 | 82,468 |

10. In the Auditorium:
 - a. The Central Iowa Symphony held their first concert of the year in October.
 - b. Lutheran Church of Hope held four services in September.
 - c. The US Navy Band "Side Boys" performed a free concert on September 1
 - d. Maximum Ames hosted one evening of performances on September 22.
 - e. India Cultural Association hosted one performance of a touring play in September
 - f. Hosted 4 performances of its fall concert series in partnership with KURE radio.
 - g. Iowans for Ukraine held their "Sunflower Show" fundraiser on October 14
11. At the Bandshell:
 - a. The annual Free Movie Night event was held Friday, September 1 with the showing of E.T. Approximately 800 people attended the movie.
 - b. On September 2, The USAF Raptor Ensemble performed to approximately 450 people.
 - c. Lutheran Church of Hope hosted one Wednesday night service.
12. Registrations for the youth basketball program for this fall are shown below:

| Program | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Youth Basketball K-2 | 34 | 42 | 29 |

13. Team registrations for adult basketball for this fall/winter are shown below:

| Program | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Men's Basketball | 14 | 15 | 17 |

PROJECT UPDATES:

1. Upper Midwest Athletic Construction, Clearwater, Minnesota, completed its portion of the Emma McCarthy Lee Park Pickleball and Tennis Court Renovation Project. They completed post installation, crack repair, court resurfacing, boundary line installation for ten pickleball courts and two tennis courts. Des Moines Steel Fence Co, Inc, Des Moines, will be onsite the week of October 16 to complete the fence installation that will delineate the courts.
2. HPC, Inc., Ames, Iowa is in the final stages of completing the repairs to the Inis Grove Park Restroom that was damaged by fire in 2022. The building has a new roof, siding, gutters, and electrical service. The renovations should be completed by the end of October and ready for service next spring.
3. Staff has started installing new concrete footings and new tee pads have been ordered for the Carroll Marty Disc Golf Course Renovation project. Work includes redesigning new holes on the north side of Worle Creek to replace holes (3-7) that are on the south side of the Creek and experiencing erosion issues. There will be new features added to the course including a hanging basket, a stump mounted basket, and an island green. Additionally, all existing baskets will be replaced. Staff is also working with a group from Leadership Ames that is designing, fundraising for, and purchasing new tee signage. The project is expected to be completed in November.