

## Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes

9-20-23

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 by Ed Kringle

Roll Call: Ed, Brad, Mitch and Jared

Citizens Present: Justin Fields, Kody Pudil

### Business

- a. Update from ECICOG – The goals that have come about from the survey have a number of great ideas and the Parks Board is starting to think about how to form more partnerships with other Programs or entities to get some more activities for all of the residents of Swisher. Some of the activities may need to happen at other locations since we do not have all of the amenities that other places have.
- b. Painting/Staining Ball Diamond Dugouts – Kody asked our thoughts on staining/painting the dugouts now that one is 100% complete and the other was awaiting the installation of the shingles. Discussion was had about waiting at least a year to two years before doing anything to let the green treated lumber dry out a bit so that a stain would even stick to it.
- c. Consider Leasing out Ball Diamond – Brad stated that when they have baseball at some of the other towns and schools, they are having to pay \$200-\$300 per weekend, and some ball diamonds are rented out by the hour as well. He was suggesting that we start looking into what we could charge for renting the field out for its use, not just when the group wants to use the lights. Swisher Youth Sports wouldn't need to pay, but other teams/users would be subject to the fee. Discussion was had about getting the field back into shape and then start checking around for rates to see what the average is and go from there. Jared motioned that we start in January 2024, and come up with the fee for out of town rentals as well as coming up with a fee structure, contracts and waivers.
- d. Ball Diamond Field Maintenance – Justin said that the Reds are not using the field anymore, and we will be putting it on the schedule for spraying along with the other spraying that the City contracts out to do routinely. He was also going to get quotes for spraying the weeds that are currently there as well as the price for spraying on a schedule or having it done with a pre-emergent that should last most of the growing season. He was also tasked with getting quotes for new fence toppers and infield lime.
- e. Additional Seating at Castek Park Playground – The monthly Swisher Men's Club meeting was after the Park and Recreation meeting this month, so this was tabled until next month when Jared can report back with what he learned about the Men's Club sponsoring some of the benches.
- f. Decide Who Will Coordinate the Youth Recreation Sports Program – There are currently about four people who are working on all aspects of the program. If they are willing to keep doing what they have been working on, then it sounds like Youth Sports are going to be in good shape for a few years to come. We discussed about having a Parks Board member act as a go between them

and the City for things to make sure everyone is on the same page as far as budgeting, when the fields will be used and a sounding board for ideas. Jared said that he would be willing to be the person who they can come to.

- g. Update on Youth Sports Program – Fall Soccer has started, lots of younger kids this season. Purchased a couple of new nets to accommodate that.
- h. Grant Application for Playground Funds – Reading over the grant information, it looks like it was for new playground equipment and we don't know where we would put a new playground at this time.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:09