

Pendleton Park Board Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2021

I. Call Meeting to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm by Park Board President Bryan Williams. Additional Board Members attending were Jennifer Roberts, Brian Slick, Laretta Gray, Joshua Ring, Steve Wills and Ana Blake. Also attending were Park Board attorney Bill Davisson, Park Director Aaron Burris and Clerk Treasurer Willie Boles.

II. Opening Browns Memorial Pool for 2021 Season

A. Bryan Williams started the meeting with the following update

1. Mr. Williams wanted to clarify for everyone that the issue for the meeting tonight was whether or not the pool would open in 2021. The issue was not will the pool be closed forever.

2. The annual operating cost for the pool is around \$130,000 per year. Given the restrictions put in place by the county health department and COVID still lingering Mr. Williams fear is how much of that cost can the park recoup during the course of the summer.

3. GVC has graciously stepped up to become the title sponsor of the pool this year. GVC has agreed to cover the opening costs for the pool in the amount of \$20,000. They will be the only sponsor for the pool this season.

4. The Town of Pendleton has also stepped up and agreed and cover half of the pools losses up to \$20,000 for the 2021 season.

5. Mr. Williams also stated that he has asked several people informally if they would come to the pool knowing they would have to wear a mask when not in the water, the answer was unanimous, no.

6. Mr. Williams thanked Preston Dixon and Londa Bennett for their hard work on coming up with an opening safety plan for the 2021 pool season.

B. Laretta Gray asked if the GVC sponsorship would preclude anyone else from making an anonymous donation. Mr. Williams replied no, donations are always welcome.

C. Mrs. Gray also commented that while she was skeptical at the beginning of the school year about students wearing masks but has been pleasantly surprised with the results. She thinks that people will be more willing than we may think to do what is necessary to come to the pool

D. Josh Ring asked if there will be signage at the entrance of the pool stating the updated rules that are in place. Yes, there will be signage posted outlining the rules for masks in the pool area.

E. Willie Boles asked if the board can pick a middle date to review the pools progress and see how the financials look at that point. Mr. Williams replied that the board will be monitoring the pools financials very closely at every park board meeting however he is not sure that it makes sense to shut the pool down mid-season.

F. Brian Slick commented that while he was not able to attend the meeting last week he has had a chance to listen to the meeting and hear the discussion that took place. Mr. Slick said that he is glad he wasn't at the last meeting; without the recent changes he would have voted not to open the pool and we would not be having this special meeting. Moving forward Mr. Slick would like to see the park do a better job of getting information out the community so that we can hear their input prior to making decisions of this magnitude. One of Mr. Slick's biggest concerns with opening the pool is the burden the new safety protocols will put on staff.

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G. Jen Roberts commented that the pool as it currently operates is sustainable. Regardless of whether or not we decide to open the pool the conversation cannot, we need to come up with a plan for the future of the pool.

H. Mrs. Gray commented that the community needs to stand up and let the park know they would like to see for the future of the pool.

I. Bryan Williams commented that Town Manager, Scott Reske would like to see the town, park and school sit down and come up with a plan for a new indoor aquatic facility. Mr. Williams hopes that after the meeting tonight that will happen and everyone will get involved with planning for the future.

J. Mr. Wills commented that it is his understanding that the land where the pool currently sits has to have an aquatic facility on it as part of the agreement with the Brown family who donated the land.

K. Mrs. Gray motioned to open the pool for the 2021 season, second by Steve Wills. All members present in favor. Motion passed.

L. Mr. Wills commented that the board and pool manager need to look at the 2021 pool rates and possibly raise rates.

IV. Meeting adjourned by Bryan Williams at 6:36 pm.