

MINUTES
CITY OF BERLIN
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
WEDNESDAY January 2, 2024 4:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BERLIN CITY HALL, 2N' FLOOR
MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC & CITY HALL IS HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

1. Call Order/ Roll Call

Present:

Zeb Pirkey

Bruce Tetzke

Daniel Ladwig

Victoria Hill

Kayla Reeves

Missing:

Bobbie Erdmann

Josh Nigbor

Guests:

Matt Chier

Staff:

Rebecca Bays

Scott Zable

2. General Public Comments. none

3. Approval of Minutes. RECOMMENDATION:Approval of Minutes December 6, 2023 meeting

Motion to approve the minutes as presented with the amendment of the counsel Liaison not

present: Burce Tetzke

Second: Kayla Reeves

motion carried via voice vote

4. Nativity Scene at Fireman's Park. RECOMMENDATION: Listen to the presentation with action as appropriate.

Rebecca Bays addresses the council: Rebecca has reached out to the Berlin Ministerial Association and is waiting on an email response. Talked to Pastor Casey at River Shores and did receive confirmation that there is a group of Congregations and, speaking on his own behalf, the group would acquire the Nativity Scene. St. Johns Lutheran church and school also said they would take ownership of the Nativity Scene

Victoria Hill: Victoria contacted the ABC group regarding the Nativity Scene. After a group meeting, they said they would also take ownership of the Nativity Scene. Victoria also recommends that any of the groups who wish to take ownership would address the council before transferring ownership.

Victoria Hill: Victoria asks if the council is in a place to transfer ownership back to the Ministerial Group.

[committee discussion revolving around the placement of the Nativity Scene while referring to the previous meeting by all attending members]

Daniel Ladwig: Has strong concerns regarding the legality of hosting the Nativity Scene in Fireman's Park, regardless of the ownership of the scene. This doesn't impact the transfer of ownership question, but ultimately IF the Nativity Scene is hosted on city property, the legal impact on the city and the precedent set for other religious symbols.

Motion to recommend to Common Council to transfer ownership to the Berlin Ministerial Association: Bruce Tetzke
Second: Kayla Reeves

5. Save the Pool. RECOMMENDATION: Listen to the presentation.

Victoria Hill: Save the Pool Sub committee meeting time has been moved to every other monday, starting January 15th, 5:00 PM at the Berlin Library.

6. New Business.
none

7. Old Business.
none

8. Adjourn.
Motion to adjourn: Kayla Reeves
Second: Bruce Tetzke
motion carried via voice vote