

CITY OF BERLIN PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES for WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 2, 2024

4:30 PM COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BERLIN CITY HALL, 2ND FLOOR

1. Call to Order/ Roll Call:

Present: Commissioner: Victoria Hill, Secretary: Kayla Reeves, Tim Bending, Bobbie Erdmann;
Council Liaison Catrina Burgess Staff: Rebecca Bays

2. General Public Comments:

None

3. Approval of September 4, 2024 Minutes:

On a motion made by T. Bending and a second by K. Reeves, the September 4, 2024 minutes were approved.

4. Parks & Recreation Expenditures Report & Parks & Recreation Revenues Report

N/A – No report available. No motion/approval needed

5. Friends of the Berlin Aquatic Center Update

V. Hill provided an update about the Park Bench Auction fundraiser at the Farmers Market, reporting that approximately \$1,100+. She noted that BFAM bid/won five of the benches.

V. Hill also reported that awareness of the Save the Pool efforts continues to grow.

6. Pool Evaluation

-Members of the commission listened to a previously recorded presentation by Ramaker in regards to the Berlin Aquatic Center Pool Evaluation, that took place at the Committee of the Whole meeting on October 1, 2024.

Discussion: V. Hill asked Council Liaison C. Burgess to recap the Council's discussion after Ramaker made their presentation. C. Burgess stated that Baird was contacted for lending/ financial plans, with a \$2M number in mind. However, with no access to budget information due to staff transition, it was left "up in the air" with no consensus. The pool evaluation came in at \$1.8M, with the concern that roads also needs to be addressed, that will pose a significant cost. Just like the commission, Council has not been able to have any "real" budget discussions. C. Burgess stated that there were hopes of Baird giving another presentation with options in the next week.

One suggestion discussed, was Friends of the Pool being responsible for ¼ of the costs to save the pool, as they are actively fundraising, therefore taking some financial burden off the city, approximately \$451K, with a threshold of time to come up with the funds, but noting at the end of the day, the costs are ultimately the responsibility of the City of Berlin.

On a motion from T. Bending and a second by K. Reeves, the parks and recreation commission made the recommendation to council to move forward with the Pool Evaluation by Ramaker as presented.

7. 2025 Budget – Recommend 2025 to Common Council

- 2024 Budget numbers still not available due to staff transitions, however R. Bays stated that she is not asking for any change in her budget numbers, noting that insurance/benefits costs, will go up slightly, as usual.

8. & 9. New & Old Business

-Aquatic Update and Budget Items/ Reports to be further discussed in November.

10. Adjourn

On a motion made by B. Erdmann and a second by T. Bending, the meeting was adjourned.

-Respectfully submitted by K. Reeves