

COUNCIL WORK SESSION March 14, 2022

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Council Work Session of the North Mankato City Council was held in the Council Chambers on March 14, 2022. Mayor Dehen called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm. The following were present for roll call: Council Members Oachs, Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, Mayor Dehen, Interim City Administrator Fischer, Caswell Sports Director Tostenson, Culture, Recreation & Quality of Life Director Heintz, and City Clerk Van Genderen.

Taylor Library & Swim Facility 2021 Report

Culture, Recreation & Quality of Life Director Heintz reported 2020 was challenging, but the Swim Facility thrived in 2021. There were 40,054 visitors to the swim facility in 2021, in the 82 days the facility was open. The facility offered 210 swim lessons with 940 kids attending. The pool, in cooperation with Connecting Kids, gave out 105 sponsorships. The facility had multiple events. The pool's concession stand sales were \$97,413. In 2022 the facility aims to have 48,000 people at the pool with 85 days open. The facility team is also creating additional event days and fitness opportunities. Membership costs will remain the same in 2022, but the day pass will increase from \$5.00 to \$6.00. The increased price will help cover chemicals and staffing. Mayor Dehen stated it is incredible the number of people enjoying the facility. Interim City Administrator Fischer requested an update on the banner sales. Director Heintz reported the goal is the sale of \$30,000 in banner sales for 2022, and the team is well on the way to meeting that goal.

Culture, Recreation & Quality of Life Director Heintz reported the North Mankato Taylor Library's circulation in 2021 was 105,297, with approximately 71,079 people coming into the Library. The Library's circulation remains on par with other regional libraries. Overdrive eBook circulation was 13,841, and Hoopla circulation was 5,687. Both electronic services continue to increase every year. The Library hosted 519 events/programs in 2021, with 20,052 people attending those events. The library collection increased by 5,643 items in 2021, and 791 items were added to Overdrive. Director Heintz reported several goals for 2022. She stated the total circulation goal is 64,000, with 75,000 people visiting the Library. The Library would like to host 500 programs and have 15,000 people attend those events/programs. Director Heintz noted some of the events that have been under the Library umbrella, like Music in the Park, will move under the Culture, Recreation & Quality of Life umbrella.

Caswell Sports Director Tostenson reviewed Caswell Sports 2021 year. He noted that the park hosted 19 events with an economic impact estimated at \$7 million. Director Tostenson reported the Minnesota State High school League Girls' State Tournament returned in 2021, and Caswell Sports has secured the tournament for an additional 5-years. The park also hosted four state tournaments and two national tournaments. There was a total of 30,230 event visitors in 2021, with an estimated 9,449 room nights. Director Tostenson reported the renovations have started to expand the concession stands and upgrade the restroom facilities, which will need to be completed by April 23 for the first tournament in 2022. The rest of the Caswell Park renovations will start on August 1, with tournaments and league playing ending around mid-August. Caswell Sports has created two new events: two high school invitationals. There will also be a 10U and 12 U national qualifying tournament to promote Caswell's national tournaments being hosted in 2022 and 2023.

Caswell Sports Director Tostenson reviewed the Caswell North Soccer Complex 2022 season, including hosting 223 games during the summer and 68 during the fall. The championship field underwent major reconstruction with the addition of an artificial turf surface,

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new LED lighting, and a new press box and bleachers with seating for up to 240 people. Mankato United contributed \$500,000 spread over 15 years for the project. In 2022 Caswell North will work with Mankato United to host a college showcase tournament or an event that will bring spectators and users for multiple days. The team is also developing a high school showcase of area school teams.

Caswell Sports Director Tostenson reviewed the newly acquired sports recreation programs, including Mankato/North Mankato Youth Football League, Mankato Area Youth Wrestling Association, Junior Tennis Camps, and Youth Soccer. The adult recreation team had 98 adult summer softball teams, 88 sand volleyball teams, and 34 adults fall softball teams. Director Tostenson reported Caswell Sports would continue to look for opportunities to expand adult and youth recreation opportunities.

Interim City Administrator Fischer said that the City staff would be learning with this being the first year of the Culture, Recreation, and Quality of Life Department. Still, staff will monitor and manage as necessary.

Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Oachs, to adjourn the Council Work Session at 12:28 pm.

Mayor

City Clerk