

MPIC Minutes for January 18th, 2023

Attendance: Dave Golden, Timothy Cienciwa (chair), Michael Dee (vice chair), Amber Kumpulanian (secretary), Andrew St. George (Recreation Director- Palmer)

Absent: Mark Caci,

Meeting start: m 5:57

The committee welcomed Andrew St George, Palmer's Recreation Director. Andrew gave a bit of his background- his expensive education in the field as well as his previous experience working for the town of Upton as recreation director.

Andrew's current role includes managing facility usage. This would include the numerous parks and former Converse Middle School facilities. It does not include the school's property. Maintenance of these facilities is covered by the DPW and Andrew coordinates with various leagues as well. This includes the Palmer Baseball and Softball League, Palmer Soccer Association, and Basketball league.

Andrew also is drumming up support for one day events such as the Krampus night and concert that was done in Depot Park. He is also working on establishing continuous events such as pickle ball and maybe bringing a summer camp back to Burleigh.

His vision for Palmer is to have a vibrant recreation program that balances arts and sports and that can be enjoyed by all residents of Palmer. Andrew would like to see any program put into place become self-sufficient in the next 5 years.

Andrew has several goals that align to the Master Plan that he is working on. Burleigh Park is important to the residents of Palmer and also is a unique recreation space that is currently used by baseball and softball leagues, horseshoe league, and open to hikers. Andrew would like to see a disc golf course put into that space. It would cost approximately \$18,000-\$20,000 to put in and run an 18 hole course. He would like to start by having local businesses sponsor a hole for \$1000 with a 10 year sponsorship. He has met with a designer, toured other disc golf courses and has come up with a design for Burleigh.

Some of the challenges are that he would like the town to purchase or acquire land currently held by the Thorndike Water District. If that was not possible he is confident he could still do a course. He would like to create a separate entrance for the course outside of Burleigh's main entrance so people could play different parts of the course. It would be a pay to play course. Andrew also brought up that Burleigh would need some sort of bathroom to be put in as well.

Dave Golden asked about a dog park. Michael Dee suggested also orienteering might be an option. Andrew said those were all possible but bathrooms and parking would need to be addressed at Burleigh as well.

Andrew stated that the main issues he can see are funding. He discussed the CPA in Upton and how it helped to fund many recreation programs.

Meeting ended at 7:17