

MINUTES
PARKS & TRAILS COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 13, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Auger, Tom Anderson, Don Heinonen, Wendy Kvale, Annette Meyer, Tina Kaney, and Tonya Prim

MEMBERS ABSENT:

COUNCIL & BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: Michael Meehlhause

CITY STAFF & OTHERS: Marcia Larson and Lolly Randall

CALL TO ORDER:

Mary Auger called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 8, 2018 MINUTES:

Motion by Heinonen, seconded by Kvale, to approve the January 8, 2018 Meeting Minutes as written. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 17, 2018 PLANNING WORK SESSION MINUTES:

Motion by Heinonen, seconded by Kvale, to approve the January 17, 2018 Planning Work Session Minutes as written. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2018

Nomination by Kvale, seconded by Prim, to nominate Kaney as the Chair. Kaney accepted. Upon unanimous vote, Kaney was elected Chair for 2018.

Nomination by Auger, seconded by Anderson to nominate Kvale as Vice Chair. Kvale accepted. Upon unanimous vote, Kvale was elected Vice Chair for 2018.

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

Marcia included a copy of the Vision and Mission Statements for the Parks & Recreation Department as well as a list of priorities that resulted from the various strategic meetings. Joe Czapiewski met with Marcia and Jamie to develop action steps created from results of the meetings. There will be another meeting with the Commission to review strategic goals, objectives, resources, and timelines. The meeting is set for March 7th at 4:45. Marcia will send out a save the date to the Commissioners once she has confirmed with Joe Czapiewski. Marcia will communicate the findings to the City Council once the Parks & Trails Commissioners have had a chance to review it.

Discussion was held regarding the Neilson Reise Arena. There are concerns that if it closed or broke down, there is not a plan/vision for the arena and this should be a top park priority.

R22 will no longer be manufactured in the year 2020 so the city will be forced to address the arena. The City Council may be split on opinions as to what to do with it. The arena is subsidized \$125,000/year to keep the doors open and the study of the arena showed it would be several million dollars to renovate and more than that to rebuild it.

PARK/CIP PRIORITIES FOR 2018

Marcia provided the park priority list. There is \$50,000 in the CIP budget for park improvements. Some of the projects are moved onto the list from last year. Discussed the importance of maintaining the current parks and not develop/obtain any new parks. There have been issues with the lighting at the Montebello ski trail that will be addressed this year.

Discussed the items that have partial funding such as shade structures for benches at Paul Bunyan Park and the shed at Roger Lehmann Park, and that they should be completed as long as the outside funding is available.

There will be more discussion on these priorities at the March meeting

COMMISSIONER UPDATE

Heinonen spoke to Tim Favor, a resident on Lake Boulevard., and he expressed his appreciation for the Lake Boulevard clean-up project.

Discussed the plantings at North Country Park. Some of those gardens will take maintenance but there will be no additional planting, there may be some volunteer groups that will help. Parks staff will plant/maintain the Girl Scout planter.

DIRECTOR UPDATE

Jared Stull was hired as the new Park Superintendent and will start on Monday. He is a former Park's employee.

Seasonal Positions will be posted soon. There is an opening for an Assistant Camp Director.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Heinonen, to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lolly Randall
Administrative Assistant