

**MINUTES**  
**PARKS & TRAILS COMMISSION MEETING**  
**April 14, 2020**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Wendy Kval Tim Faver, Tom Anderson, Tonya Prim, and Don Heinonen

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**,Tina Kaney, and Annette Meyer

**COUNCIL & BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:**

**CITY STAFF & OTHERS:** Marcia Larson, Nate Mathews and Michael Meehlhause

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Wendy Kvale called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**Amendments to Agenda:**

No amendments were made to the Agenda.

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 11, 2020 MEETING MINUTES:**

**Motion by Faver, seconded by Heinonen, to approve the February 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes as written. Motion carried.**

**COVID-19 UPDATE/DISCUSSION**

The Director presented updated on the park facilities that have been closed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic including the Neilson Reise Arena, Carnegie Library, all Park Facilities (most are still closed for the winter), Playgrounds, and skatepark as well as the Public Works/Parks and Recreation Office. The Parks and Recreation Department staff are either working from home or platooning per the Governor's Stay at Home Order.

The Director updated the Commission on social distancing education in the parks and outlined a plan to have park ambassadors monitor the parks and assist with education and produce educational videos similar to the Lakeland News Story.

Commission discussed continuing social distancing education with signage, park monitoring, videos and social media messaging as a way to encourage compliance with federal and state recommendations. The commission agreed by consensus to put out the tennis/pickleball nets as long as users complied with social distancing recommendations. Also suggested working with the Police Department to reward those practicing social distancing similar to the bike helmet program. Commission requested the Director work with the Police Chief to see if this is an option.

Jamie Anderson, Recreation Coordinator, presented options for summer programming in the event that the traditional summer camps and other programs cannot be implemented due to social distancing and federal/state recommendations. The Commission reviewed the list and stated this was a great option. Discussed providing additional input via email to staff.

**NORTH COUNTRY PARK – NATURAL PLAYGROUND**

The Director reviewed the draft concept plan for the natural playground with the Commission and the timeline. The Commission discussed the workshop held at the National Guard Armory in March, the Committee, timeline for construction, and the aspects of the concept.

The Director reported the final concept would be presented to the Commission and City Council for adoption/discussion.

### **ITASCA SPORTS – TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER**

The Director reported that Itasca Sports had submitted a proposal in response to the Request for Proposals for Watercraft and Bike Rental at the Tourist Information Center at Paul Bunyan Park. The TIC is currently closed due to COVID-19 and there are unknowns for programming and rentals in the summer. Marcia reported that there were discussion with Mark Morrisey regarding rentals and options for opening the OPC at Diamond Point. Commission discussed the idea of bike and watercraft rentals and being a good fit at the park

**Motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Heinonen to recommend to the Council support of the Itasca Sport Watercraft and Boat Rental in the Tourist Information Center in compliance with federal/state social distancing recommendations in summer of 2020.**

**Motion passed.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Heinonen, seconded by to Prim adjourn the meeting at 6:15p.m. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Larson  
Parks and Recreation Director