

**MINUTES
PARKS & TRAILS COMMISSION MEETING
JUNE 11, 2019**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Heinonen, Mary Auger, Tonya Prim, and Wendy Kvale

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tina Kaney, Tom Anderson, and Annette Meyer

COUNCIL & BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: Michael Meelhouse

CITY STAFF & OTHERS: Marcia Larson and Lolly Randall

CALL TO ORDER:

Wendy Kvale called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m.

Amendments to agenda

Add skate park discussion. Motion by Heinonen, seconded by Auger, to accept the change to agenda. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MAY 14, 2019 MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Heinonen, seconded by Prim, to approve the May 14, 2019 Meeting Minutes as written. Motion carried.

PARK PROJECTS – 2019

GORDON FALLS – Marcia recently received the final concept plans; there were no substantial changes from the preliminary plans. The project should go out for quotes within a week or two. WSN will do the staking as they did the survey of the park. The project completion is October. The quoted work includes the grading, curbing and the asphalt for the basketball court. Quotes for the playground will also be received in June/July. The surfacing on the basketball court may be delayed until next spring. Once a contractor has been hired, a timeline will be firmed up. Marcia will give another update on this project next month.

The City will purchase the basketball hoops and provide them to the contractor and park staff will do the landscaping on the project. The Rotary Club will help with the installation of the playground equipment. Rotary Club has also started fundraising for North Country Park.

SECURITY CAMERAS

Marcia explained that in the past few years there has been a lot of vandalism in the parks so she is considering installing security cameras. The police department has also asked the parks to consider security cameras. The library is also looking at installing cameras so the timing was good to have security companies provide costs. Marcia received quotes from Per Mar Security Services to install security cameras at some of the parks such as North Country Park, City Park, and the Tourist

Information Center (TIC) at the waterfront. There would be a recording device on site that can be accessed by a cell phone but it requires Wi-Fi which currently is not available at North Country Park. City Park would be the most expensive to install equipment but is also the park where it is most needed. Installing security cameras could be a cost benefit to stop or prevent some of the vandalism to the park's facility. The monthly monitoring is not necessary but what will be most helpful is the ability to record activity and keep that recording for a specific number of days.

Discussed trying out security cameras at City Park first and see how it works before putting cameras at the TIC. If there are any incidents the police will be called as usual but now they will have a camera recording that may hold evidence. Marcia is expecting a quote from another vendor and will put together some financial figures as to how much money has been spent on repairs on the vandalism.

SKATEPARK RULES DISCUSSION

Marcia explained that when the skate park was built the focus was on skateboarders and the rules were design to accommodate skateboards and in-line skates. Bikes and scooters have not been allowed in the park. This year there has been a large amount of scooters using the park. There are parents on both sides of this issue that are upset. Recently the police department has been enforcing the rules of no scooters in the park and have asked them to leave. The trend nationwide is all wheel parks instead of just skateboards. Marcia spoke to the designer of the skate park and was told that there is no design reason that you could not allow scooters. The BMX bikes are different because they have metal pegs that can damage the concrete and Bemidji's skate park is not designed for BMX bikes.

Discussed how to successfully allow the scooters at the skate park. Discussed changing the sign to be very specific as to what is allowed and specific as to what isn't allowed.

Motion by Auger, seconded by Heinonen, to change the rules at the skate park to make them clear that skateboards, inline skates, and scooters are the only items that can use the park and no BMX bikes allowed.

Discussed having a Parks & Recreation meeting open to the public for discussion on this topic before changing the rules/sign.

Mary rescinded her motion until after the public input meeting.

COMMISIONER UPDATES

DIRECTOR UPDATES

June 27th is the dedication for the musical playground at 11:00 a.m. It was suggested to present Daniel with a plaque from the city.

Lakeview Oasis/Overbeeks will be planted tomorrow morning. Kids from Kids in Motion camp will be helping plant. It will be included on the sustainability tour on July 13th.

Design your yard with pollinators workshops will be June 18th and June 25th.

Monthly history bike rides will start at the history center.

Kids fishing pond by the Sanford Event Center will be discontinued as it doesn't function properly because it is a storm water pond. The DNR is looking at developing at a better site.

Looking at getting rental bikes at the tourist info center/chamber building.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Heinonen, seconded by Auger, to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lolly Randall
Administrative Assistant