

**MINUTES**  
**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
**JULY 12, 2022**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tom Anderson, Tim Faver, Gwenia Fiskevold Gould, Don Heinonen, Tonya Prim, and Bethany Wesley

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Kristine Bommersbach

**COUNCIL & BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:** Dan Jourdain

**CITY STAFF & OTHERS:** Joe Czapiewski, Jillian Reiner, Nate Mathews, Marcia Larson, Jamie Anderson, and Lolly Randall

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Bethany Wesley called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA:**

No amendments were made.

**APPROVAL OF JUNE 14, 2022 MEETING MINUTES:**

**Motion by Faver, seconded by Heinonen, to approve the June 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes as written. Motion carried.**

**NATURAL PLAYGROUND PROJECT**

Reviewed and discussed the handouts provided in the packet. Phase II of the Natural playground project includes building the fallen timbers and staff is moving forward. The design has been rotated from the original design so the mound is now on the opposite side which alleviates the need for expensive fencing. This will make the play area safer by creating a natural barrier. Fencing can always be added later if needed. Looking for donated materials to help keep the costs down. There are boulders already donated, looking for donated logs. Construction should start mid to late August 2022.

**NEILSON REISE DISCUSSION**

Discussed the feasibility study results that were submitted by the 292 Design Group. These group of design options will go to the City Council at their July 18, 2022 meeting. Tom Betti of 292 Design Group will present his report and answer questions the Council may have. Reviewed the different plans that show re-use options for the Neilson Reise Arena. The curling club remains in all of the plan options as is the addition of a new ADA approved entrance to the building. A budget estimate for each design option is also included but is a very general range. Discussed the lease with the Curling Club and they have been to the City Council asking to continue their lease with the city which was tabled until the City Council decides what they want to do with the facility. The plans include putting in a concrete floor on the Neilson Reise Arena and sprinkling the entire building, including the curling club. The study includes bringing up the plumbing and electrical on the Neilson Reise side up to code.

Discussed repurposing the facility as an indoor recreation facility for the community that can fill community needs that may not be met by the proposed Sanford Health wellness center. Discussed the importance of re-using the facility rather than tearing it down especially since it is the same cost. Discussed tearing it down and building new and selling the building to a private party. Discussion was held about repurposing the facility as a Park's shop that could house the Park's department vehicles that are now left outside year round.

The Commissioners feel they need more direction from the City Council, including how much money they are willing to commit to the building but the general consensus of the Commissioners was to reuse the building.

Joe Czapiewski shared that the current strategic planning process focused on outdoor recreation although they did hear from many groups that would like to have indoor facilities. He mentioned the 2018 Strategic plan showed the importance of having an indoor recreation facility that could be programmed by the city's Recreation Department.

**Motion by Anderson, seconded by Heinonen, to advise to the City Council that the Parks & Recreation Commission would like to see the Neilson Reise Facility repurposed rather than demolished. Motion carried**

#### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

Director Larson will be on vacation for the August 2nd meeting so it has been rescheduled to Tuesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 and the Strategic Planning meeting will be on Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:30. Both meetings will be held at the Lakeview Room in the Carnegie Library.

#### **PARKS AND RECREATION STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Joe Czapiewski furnished material that is a high level overview of the Strategic Planning process for the Commissioners to review for the August 11<sup>th</sup> meeting when they will also discuss focus groups. Discussed the service area analysis, shows what neighborhoods the parks serve. Reviewed the park classifications within the city and the trail system and potential trailheads.

Discussed doing six focus groups, one dealing with formal park user groups, i.e. pickleball and another for trail user groups, and one for general public volunteers, and another group that didn't respond to the survey including youth and low income. Discussed using community partners to help create these focus groups. Discussed giving the City Council a status update and getting feedback from them. Once all of the ideas have been gathered from the focus groups, discussed holding an open house, maybe in an online format to show the public the progress or teaming it with a fun event to help draw a crowd.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Heinonen, seconded by Anderson, to adjourn the meeting at 6:35. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lolly Randall

Administrative Assistant