

**MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 13, 2021**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

COUNCIL & BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: Dan Jourdain

CITY STAFF & OTHERS: Marcia Larson and Lolly Randall

CALL TO ORDER:

Tonya Prim called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA:

No Amendments were made.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 8, 2021 MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Fiskevold Gould, seconded by Heinonen, to approve the June 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes as written. Motion carried.

NORTH COUNTRY PARK NATURAL PLAYGROUND

Larson reported that the hand pumps have been installed and other elements will be installed over the next several weeks at North Country Park. There will be another volunteer build event on July 13th at 5:30 p.m. The Rotary Club donated an additional \$5,800 that will cover the cost of increased prices of materials/lumber.

Max Brown, Eagle Scout, delivered the water channels for his project this week. He raised over \$1,000 for this project and constructed seven water chutes. Lumber prices were triple in price from when the plans were made. There is city water that will furnish the water features.

The fort building area had the post anchored to the ground in the original design but due to the sandy soil, the posts are not secure enough so the contractor and designer have decided to change the design to include sonotubes and footings. There will be an additional cost for this design change and this will most likely be paid for out of the \$3,000 contingency fund. The change order cost is approximately \$10,265.00. Larson will approach the Rotary Club to help pay for these costs. There is funding available in the CIP that could also be used and there is \$9,000 in the parkland dedication fund.

Kerry White, Landscape Architect for the project, will be on-site August 4th or 5th to do a final walk through of the project and we anticipate to have 90% completion on the project at that time with final completion remaining early August.

SCULPTURE WALK GRANT/REQUEST/ARTIST BENCHES

Larson and Aaron Weeks, Park Superintendent, met with Cate Belleveau who is on the Sculpture Walk Committee, to discuss the placement of five artistic benches in the downtown area and Paul Bunyan Park. Larson is looking for approval of the locations from the Commission. The final bench designs still need to be completed.

Motion by Heinonen, seconded by Wesley, to approve the artistic bench project proposed by the Sculpture Walk Committee contingent upon approval of the Arts Commissions and Mn/DOT. Motion carried.

Discussed the location and the advantage of placing them along T.H. 197 and in the park. They wanted benches downtown but there is not enough room on the downtown sidewalks and they can interfere with snow removal. The final design and final locations will be brought to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

MNDOT REQUEST – TEMPORARY PAVEMENT DECAL

Larson was contacted by Jon Mason, MnDOT District Planner, for permission to place a temporary pavement decal on the trail in Library Park. This is part of MnDOT's plan to get information out to the public about the Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan (SMTP). They would like to place temporary pavement decals along heavily traveled walkways and bikeways throughout the state. The decal or sticker is 14"x14" and would remain in place until July 31, 2021. Larson agrees that this would be a good location to help with the outreach to residents.

Motion by Heinonen, seconded by Gwennie to approve placement of the sticker with approval from staff on location. Motion passed with 5 in favor and Anderson voting against.

RESIGNATION – WENDY KVALE

Wendy Kvale submitted her resignation to Larson on July 7th. She has recently retired and plans to travel more and spend time with family.

Motion by Faver, seconded by Heinonen, to approve Wendy's resignation. Motion carried.

Marcia will post the open position.

The Commissioners recognized Wendy Kvale's amazing contribution to the Parks & Recreation Commission for many years.

COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Heinonen suggested the Commissioners start to think about potential uses for the recently closed Neilson Reise Arena for future discussion. Larson shared that Jake Pederson will be working at the BCAC with the City continuing to keep Jake as an employee while working at the BCAC. A three year agreement was made between the City and the BCAS board and an MOU will be drafted.

The R22 can be sold for approximately \$70,000 and the Zamboni and other items can be sold to assist in helping to finance Jake.

BCAC is accommodating all the previous users of the Neilson Reise Arena with ice time and they also have ice times open to the public. The School District is planning to keep their Nymore rink open at least until and if the Sanford Wellness Center is built.

Anderson asked about the ebikes on the trails and if that is permissible. Marcia has an intern looking into that.

Commissioners asked to look at the Neilson Reise Arena since they will be discussing the future of it and possibly holding a monthly meeting there.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Discussed the issue of the cleanup in the parks, especially after events such as the 4th of July celebration. Brainstormed ideas of how to get the park goers to clean up after themselves.

Discussed the difficulties of hiring seasonal employees. Many employers are having a difficult time finding workers.

Discussed that bouncy house, tents or similar items are not allowed in Diamond Point Park and need to make sure it is stated in the policy/rules. The Commissioners will be reviewing all park rules/policies in the fall and may need to clarify some.

Discussed putting a better pedestrian walkway into Cameron Park. The DNR paid 75% of the boat landing costs and they could be approached to help finance a pedestrian walkway but most of their grants require a 50% match.

The Tourist Information Center has had a lot of visitors so far this season and the bike rentals have been huge success. Discussing the potentials for winter activities there such as an outdoor rink with skate rentals and selling hot chocolate.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Fiskevold Gould, seconded by Anderson, to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lolly Randall
Administrative Assistant