

**MINUTES  
PARKS & TRAILS COMMISSION MEETING  
JULY 9, 2019**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Annette Meyer, Mary Auger, Tina Kaney, Tonya Prim, and Wendy Kvale

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Don Heinonen, and Tom Anderson

**COUNCIL & BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:** Michael Meehlhause

**CITY STAFF & OTHERS:** Mike Reeves, Shane Kolstad, Ethan Lund, Marcia Larson and Lolly Randall

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:**

**Motion by Auger, seconded by Kaney, to approve agenda as written.**

**APPROVAL OF JUNE 11, 2019 MEETING MINUTES:**

**Motion by Auger, seconded by Kaney, to approve the June 11, 2019 Meeting Minutes as written. Motion carried.**

**SKATEPARK RULES DISCUSSION**

Marcia explained that there have been phone calls from parents from skate boarders and scooters as the police have started to enforce the rules that state no scooters allowed. In her research, Marcia found that most skate parks are going to all wheel parks. The concerns with scooters is their speed and the users lack of knowledge of skate park etiquette. Marcia contacted the designer of the Bemidji skate park and found that the park is designed to include scooters as far as safety. The park is not designed for BMX bikes and they can cause a lot of damage to skate parks.

Marcia spoke with Nate Dorr, a long time skateboarder who was helpful in organizing and planning the skate park. His concerns about the scooters is that they tend to be younger kids and they don't know the etiquette of skate parks. He stated concern of the safety letting BMX bikes in the park. He suggested expanded the park to include a smaller components that might attract the scooters to that area.

Mike Reeves, 2515 Birchmont Drive, NE, has been skateboarding for 18 years. He was involved in the planning/fundraising of the skate park. Mike stated that when sharing the park with five or more scooters, the park it is not safe. The scooters don't make any noise and they are shorter/younger kids so it is very hard to see them. The most dangerous things at the park is collision with scooters. Mike said the BMX bikes tend not to use the park. He supports the scooters having a space but he does not see the safety issues getting better so he doesn't support

them being included at the park. He feels everyone has to follow rules and why should the scooters not have to. Mike stated that there are many other places the scooters can go but the skateboarders are limited to the park.

Ethen Lund, 2306 Birchmont Dr NE, feels the park is the only place the skateboarders have and asking them to share it with scooters is asking a lot. Many skaters don't feel they should have to worry about hurting the little kids on scooters when they are skateboarding. It can also be dangerous for the skateboarders if they have to bail/stop fast to avoid colliding with a scooter.

Shane Kolstad, 218 Gould Ave., stated that scooters do have metal components that can and do chip up the park. Scooters can go anywhere around town but the skateboarders cannot.

The following discussion was held: Majority of the scooters are elementary kids, there are between 15 to 20 that are there regularly and there are 30 to 40 skateboarders on a regular basis. There can be 100 skateboarders using the facility that come from surrounding areas because it is the only park nearby. Discussed having specific times for "scooters only" to use the park. Softball nights are the worse for the scooters as parents drop off their kids and let them play in the skate park unsupervised. Marcia will discuss these issues with the softball association. It is not advised to break a park up into time slots for scooters and skateboards, parks that allow all wheel types do not do this.

Another issue is those on the scooters do not understand skate park etiquette and the park is small, causing everyone to have to skate and scooter in close proximity to each other. Discussed a separate place for the scooters and looking at the phase 2 of the skate park original plan. This could be considered but it would have to be a community project as there is no funding available to expand.

The Commissioners all agreed not to change the rules at the skatepark that prohibits scooter from using the skate park. They felt more discussion was needed. Michael Meehlhause suggested that it might be time to look phase 2, expansion of the skate park. Marcia will pull out the design for the phase 2 but said it will have to be tweaked and that funding this will be an issue.

### **GORDON FALLS – QUOTES**

Marcia sent out separate bid quotes for grading, bituminous, concrete, and playground equipment. She received the following quotes:

GRADING – Reiersen - \$44,364.20

BITUMINOUS – BBI - \$12,600.00

CONCRETE – waiting on the quote for concrete work, should be in at the end of the week.

### **PLAYGROUND**

The quotes came in below budget so as long as the concrete quote comes is on budget, Marcia will take it to the City Council for approval and work could start in July. Once all this work is complete, the playground equipment will be sent out for quotes. Playground request for quotes will bascially include just the budget, there is no particular theme just stating that the equipment is for a neighborhood park. RFQ's will ask them to include accessible park surface. Hope to receive at

least four options to choose from. The Rotary Club has no desire to be included in the selection process of the playground, they just want to be involved in installation. Marcia will reach out to the Commissioners for help in selection of the playground equipment when the time comes. Discussed adding signage to Gordon Falls Park that explains the naming of the park.

### **COMMISSIONER UPDATES**

The Jaycees had one of their most successful year at the water carnival/beer tent. The installation of the music park at Paul Bunyan Park was successful.

### **Director update**

Recreation Department will be hosting the annual beach party this Saturday at south shore beach. The Lakeview oasis is a stop on the sustainable places tour stop this weekend.

Adventure camp has had fair attendance for its first year. Made a request of the City Council for an additional \$50,000 for the parks budget. They finalize the budget in in the fall. Also requested more funding for another fulltime staff in the recreation department.

A fossil dig will be installed at the beach at south shore.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Prim, seconded by Auger, to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lolly Randall  
Administrative Assistant