

**MINUTES
PARKS & TRAILS COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2019**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom Anderson, Tina Kaney

COUNCIL & BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: Michael Meehlhause

CITY STAFF & OTHERS: Marcia Larson and Lolly Randall

CALL TO ORDER:

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

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

No changes to the agenda

APPROVAL OF AGUST 13, 2019 MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Heinonen, seconded by Prim, to approve the August 13, 2019 Meeting Minutes as written. Motion carried.

GORDON FALLS PARK PROJECT

The site has been graded, the curb work needed to be re-done so this has pushed the project timeframe back. The seeding and landscaping plans need to be decided on this year or spring of next year. The playground should be delivered next week. The site is not ready for the playground equipment yet so a determination will need to be made when it will be installed. May have to fence off the green spaces from the playground. Surfacing for basketball court will be done next spring due to timing and temperature. Marcia has stayed in touch with the Rotary Club regarding their volunteering for the playground install.

FEES AND CHARGES UPDATE

Marcia met with the Public Affairs Committee and they set the rental rates for the Carnegie Lakeview Room at a daily rate of \$300 and half day for \$175.00 and a 15% discount for non-profit organizations. Renters will be required to have event insurance. Rules are similar to rental of other park facilities with the exception of needing to have a caterer with alcohol license if they plan to have alcohol. Parks & Recreation will provide a staff member to unlock the building and remain on-site until after the event and then lock the building up. There is an open house tomorrow at two different times. Signage has been added to the door that includes contact information for renting and the two renters have moved into the lower level.

Park Facilities/Rentals – the facility rentals have been increased an additional \$25.00, the Sapphire Pavilion rent was increased \$20.00.

Neilson Reise Arena current rates are \$120/hour youth hockey is \$105/hr. and the annual group rate (BFSC) is \$95/hr. In an effort to decrease the dollars allocated to subsidize the arena, the City Council suggested to raise the rates so a \$25/hour increase will be made to all groups. Rates are expected to go again next year. These rates puts the city more in line with what other arenas in the area are charging. Youth groups will still continue to get subsidized, just not as much.

Motion by Auger, seconded by Heinonen, to accept the proposed rates for the Park & Recreation Department including the rates for the Neilson Reise Arena and the Carnegie Lakeview Room. Motion carried.

SKATEPARK – PHASE II

The minutes from the July 9, 2019 meeting are included in the packet where discussion was held regarding phase II of the skate park and what the costs would be. In the original plan, phase II was actually intended for experienced skaters not beginners. At that time, the cost was going to be around \$150,000, with inflation and it being a new project, it would cost more around \$200,000. It would also requiring hiring a designer.

Discussion was held regarding estimating the costs for other park projects such as Cameron Park and North Country Park and that they should be a priority and put the phase II skate park project in the future of possible park projects. It was suggested to give Nate Dorr this information in case he would like to move forward with fund raising.

It was stated that the City Council will be exploring a possible local special use sales tax to fund the water treatment plant and the wastewater treatment plant and perhaps some of the potential park projects could be included for discussion at the City Council's work session on sales tax.

The scooters are still at the skate park even though the rules were not changed. The skateboarders are the ones that felt the skate park isn't large enough but based on research, the current skate park is adequate for the size of city and the designer of the skate park did not feel there were any aspects of the design that would make it dangerous for it to be an "all-wheels park".

Discussed the importance to address all park users and not continue to put money into the limited use/specialty parks. Discussed if the park allowed scooters, maybe lessons could be offered that would also teach skate park etiquette. Marcia will bring a draft of the new rules to include scooters to the next meeting and will also look at signage stating some park etiquette.

Motion by Meyer, seconded by Auger, to change the rules to allow scooters at the skate park in. Motion carried.

SECURITY CAMERAS:

Marcia provided the two quotes received for security cameras from Per Mar and All State Communications (Arvig). They looked specifically at City Park and Paul & Babe statue areas, which at this time is where most of the vandalism has taken place. The cameras would be positioned around the building and would record on the system that would be located inside the

building. It is not necessary for them to have motion detectors and hopefully the cameras would deter some of the vandalism that is taking place. There is money available in the Park's budget to pay for the cameras.

Motion by Heinonen, seconded by Meyer, to purchase security cameras for City Park and Paul Bunyan Park from Per Mar, per their quote. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Michael shared that the City Council discussed the Neilson Arena at their last meeting and also transferred the \$7,500 that was going to the youth advisory commission to the Parks & Recreation department budget. Also increased the Parks and Recreation Department's Capital Improvement budget by \$25,000. The increase will come from a property tax increase.

The South Shore parking lot construction is moving along.

Tonya shared an idea of a swing that is for a child and adult.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATES:

Worldwide Day of Play is this weekend at the lakefront from 11-3.

Open house at the Carnegie tomorrow.

Will be adding a full time recreation position. It will be a 30-35 hour with benefits.

Jamie will be reporting on the recreation program at next month's meeting. She will also report on the scholarship fund. Looking at opening another day camp site next year at City Park.

Marcia met with Jason Brodina regarding youth baseball. Discussed hosting a program for the youth in the neighborhood at North Country Park. Discussed reaching out to community education program to see about collaborating.

Marcia ordered some hammock poles to be placed at Ciamond Point Park to try to deter people from using the trees.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Heinonen, seconded by Auger, to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lolly Randall
Administrative Assistant