

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Friday, October 13, 2017

Members present: Dave Barsness, Dorothy Dybvig, Karry White, Mary Franklin
Members absent: Tesla Chester; Council Liaison Tim Franklin
Staff Present: Administrator Kathy George, Streets & Park Supervisor John Mikrot
Guests: Tony Vavricka, Evan Yingst

Chair Barsness called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

Agenda

Motion Dybvig, second White, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed 4-0.

Minutes

One correction was made to the September 8th meeting minutes. **Motion White, second Dybvig, to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2017 meeting, with the noted correction. Motion passed 4-0.**

New Business

- A. Evan Yingst – Boy Scouts Winter Camping – Evan Yingst was present on behalf of the Boy Scouts of America. He is responsible for planning and organizing winter camping for the Boy Scouts. Yingst stated that the Boy Scouts have an interest in ice climbing and have constructed their own make-shift climbing feature. He saw a video of ice climbing at Robinson Park and also has some friends who have visited the park. He would like to incorporate a visit to Robinson Park for ice climbing during the Boy Scouts winter camping events. Typically, the Scouts camp at their St. Cloud property. He envisions a day trip, being mindful of not interfering with other climbing activity/events that may be taking place in Robinson Park.

Vavricka reported that the Winter Climbing Fest is being planned for January 5-6-7. Otherwise, the park is available for all to use. Vavricka suggested Yingst plan on using 3 or 4 ropes so that climbing is available for others. There are no fees; however, donations to either the City or the MN Climbers Association are always appreciated. Yingst stated that as part of their insurance coverage they would have a Certified Level 2 Climber on site.

Commission Members were very supportive of the Boy Scouts exploring Robinson Park and all that it has to offer.

- B. Boy Scout Camp July 13-15, 2018 – The City was contacted by Jim Gerling, Troop 3327, who would like to bring about 30 people to camp at Robinson Park July 13-15, 2018. They will provide portable toilets and have offered to perform work at the park in lieu of fees. Vavricka noted that they contacted him as well, planning to do some rafting.

Commission Members again were supportive of this event. Gerling should submit a Special Event Permit and will need to adhere to the following:

- Fires are only allowed in fire pits, as follows:
 - 1 existing fire ring across from the bathroom by the picnic pavilion
 - 3 existing fire rings in the camping areas
- Cutting of trees for firewood is not allowed;
- Designate an area for vehicle parking, with signage;
- Portage only to camp sites – no vehicles;

The Sheriff's Department should also be made aware of the event. Camping will still be made available to the public at the three designated camp sites.

The Park Commission would like the following items completed by City Staff:

- "Restricted Area" signage to prevent vehicles from going through environmentally sensitive areas;
- Rope off the stage area, with signage "Please Respect this Historically Significant artifact".

These items were discussed in preparation for the Sandstone Climber's Fest, which ended up being canceled. However, it would be beneficial to place this signage and rope off the stage area to protect the park and to prevent injury.

- C. Work Day at Robinson Park – Barsness reported that he is organizing a work day on October 28th for brushing and clearing at Robinson Park from 9:00 a.m. – noon. White will put a notice in the newspaper. The City will provide refreshments.
- D. November Meeting Date – City Hall will be closed on Friday, November 10th in recognition of Veterans Day; therefore, the Commission decided to meet on Thursday, November 9th at 8:00 a.m. at Sprouts Restaurant.

Continuing Business

- A. Angle Park – The Application for the Purchase of Land has been submitted to BNSF. Cathy Clune with BNSF was out to view the property. She is completing her assessment and then will circulate the request to the proper BNSF authorities for a determination.
- B. Gin Pole – Mikrot is getting quotes to repair the base with cast-in-place concrete.
- C. Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail – Very preliminary cost estimate to mill and overlay the 1.6 mile segment of trail is \$150,000. In discussing this with the County Engineer, the County may be willing to add this repair to a road project they are planning in 2019, especially if the City is able to contribute \$40,000 to the cost. Discussions will continue.

- D. Hockey & Ice Rink Update – The hockey liner has been received. Waiting to hear from Ross Degerstrom on the work he will be doing to the rink.
- E. Lions Hill rink – Staff has asked Ross Degerstrom for a quote to level off the ground, but haven't received one. A quote has been received from Mike Johnson for \$1,250 to level the rink and add clay material. **Motion by White, second by Dybvig, to recommend the City Council accept the quote from Mike Johnson. Motion passed 4-0.**
- F. Stage at Robinson Park – Mikrot is getting quotes to (1) repair what's there, or (2) build a new stage over the existing structure.
- G. Park Land Swap – Old Tennis Courts – Staff is working through the process to swap one of the softball field lots in exchange for the old tennis courts.
- H. Legacy Grant – Leah Jackson is working with Candace at WSB on the application. They are looking into any hours or money that's been put into the park in the last year (to use as matching). The 2018 City budget includes \$20,000 towards matching funds, bringing the total match available to \$40,000 (2017 amount + 2018 amount). Applications are accepted any time; however, the cut off for consideration is in July. Commission Members discussed the priorities for the grant and whether or not a smaller amount could be requested that would line up with the \$40,000 match that is available. Since there is time before the application must be submitted, it was decided to review the current proposed application at the November Park Commission meeting.
- White noted that there is a grant available from Game Time for playground equipment. Perhaps this is an option for the playground that is being discussed near Robinson Park. Staff will take a look at it.
- I. Park Commission Membership – The City Council approved the change from 10 members down to 7, with one being a student and one not necessarily being a resident, but they must be a property owner. The ad is published and posted, with applications due October 20th.
- Tony Vavricka expressed interest in joining the Park & Rec Commission. **Motion by Barsness, second by Dybvig, to recommend the City Council appoint Tony Vavricka to the Park & Rec Commission. Motion passed 4-0.**
- J. Rink Maintenance & Warming House Attendant – Council approved the combination job description. The ad is published and posted, with applications due October 20th.
- K. Doggie Waste Station – has been ordered and will be installed soon.
- L. Camping Registrations – There were 8 registrations for 10 days of camping during the month of September.

M. Park Inspection Forms – Staff prepared inspection forms for each park. Each Commission Member chose a park that they would perform the inspection on. It was decided that inspections should be done monthly, prior to the Commission Meeting so that items/issues could be discussed at the meeting. Following is a breakdown of each park and who will inspect:

Robinson Park – Dave Barsness
Johnson Park – Mary Franklin
Angle Park – Kathy George
Train Park – Dorothy Dybvig
Softball Field – Karry White
Lions Hill – Tony Vavricka

N. 2018 Proposed Budget – The Council would like the Commission to set a budget for the \$10,000 allocated to Community Events. Commission Members agreed to the following:

Other Events	\$6,500
Neighborhood Night Out	\$1,000
Spring Clean Up	\$ 500
Arts in the Park	\$2,000

Lights/Ice at Robinson Park can fall under Maintenance. St. Croix Scenic Byway and Heritage Area can fall under “Other Events”. This recommendation will be relayed to the City Council for approval.

Adjournment

Motion Dybvig, second White to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy George, City Administrator