

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Friday, February 9, 2018

Members present: Dave Barsness, Karry White, Mary Franklin, Tony Vavricka, Eric Sturtz;
Council Liaison Tim Franklin

Members absent: Dorothy Dybvig

Staff Present: Administrator Kathy George, Streets & Parks Supervisor John Mikrot

Guests: David Chasson

Call to Order

Chair Barsness called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

Agenda

Motion White, second Sturtz, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed 5-0.

Minutes

Motion White, second Franklin, to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2018 meeting as presented. Motion passed 5-0.

New Business

- A. Special Event Permit – Peter Fest – The City received a Special Event Permit Application from Peter Lenz for his annual Peter Fest event on February 23-25. Lenz estimates about 50 climbers and 10 campers. Barsness noted that Lenz would like contact information for portable toilets; George will follow up with Lenz.

After discussion, motion by Barsness, second by Vavricka, to recommend the City Council approve the Special Event Permit for Peter Fest with the following conditions:

- **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 be made aware of the event.**

Motion passed 5-0.

- B. Kettle River Watershed Mural Project - Funding – Local artist Carole Bersin and Administrator George met to review possible locations for the mural. They looked at the west wall of the Kettle River Graphics building, the north wall of Arlen Kranz Ford, areas around Phase, Angle Park, and Train Park. George recommends the home of the mural be in Train Park because it will be owned by the City and will be easier to monitor and protect if it is in a City Park. She stated that it could be placed south of the pavilion, parallel to the train tracks. Lee Dybvig has agreed to build a

frame structure to house the mural panels. After discussion, **motion by White, second by Sturtz, to approve the location at Train Park after checking with BNSF and utility companies. Motion passed 5-0.**

George stated that a grant application has been submitted for funding from the East Central Regional Arts Council. The total project budget is \$16,000. The grant request is for \$7,000. In-kind contributions total \$4,500. A funding source is needed for the remaining \$4,500 in cash, if the grant is awarded. Suggestions were made to ask the Sandstone Area Chamber, the Sandstone Lions, and the Quarry Lions for assistance. **Motion by Vavricka, second by White, to approve \$2,250 from the City's Park Fund, and directing George to contact others for possible donations. Motion passed 5-0.**

C. Upcoming Events – The Commission discussed Spring Clean Up and Arts in the Park:

Spring Clean Up – The Park Fund budget allows \$500 for Spring Clean Up. It was decided to set Saturday, April 28th, as the date for the event. George/City Staff will check with Anderson Recycling, the Evangelical Free Church, Harvest Christian School, Girl Scouts, Venture Crew – all past participants of the event. Tim Franklin stated that the Sandstone Lions will help wherever needed. George will also check with the County about the possibility of taking household items and how that could be facilitated. This item will remain on the agenda as details firm up.

Arts in the Park – In the past, this event has been held on Wednesdays. There was discussion about holding it on a different night because most City meetings are also held on Wednesday nights. George will check with Hinckley and Pine City to see when their events are held. Commissioners discussed bands, food vendors, etc. The Park Fund budget allows \$2,000 for this event. Once the dates have been chosen, more details will be worked out.

Continuing Business

A. Legacy Grant Review – Candace Amberg (WSB) provided 3 options to consider for the upcoming Legacy Grant application.

Option #1 includes a trail connection from Upper to Lower Robinson and implements the Kettle River Trail starting by the existing shelter and going north since the existing parking lot by the launch is in the way. This option keeps the existing restroom, shelter and boat launch and then has parking lot improvements starting from the existing shelter going north to create the turnaround and improved parking.

Option #2 focuses more on improvements to Upper Robinson with the camping activities and connecting it to Lower Robinson. Improvements in Upper Robinson include a restroom and shower facility for the camping activities. This option also adds in the Kettle River Trail in Lower Robinson starting from the existing shelter and going north and leaves the existing restroom, shelter and boat lunch in. It does not alter the lower parking areas.

Option #3 is similar to previous considerations. It includes focusing on Lower Robinson with the full Kettle River Trail which runs the entire length of the park and would include full reconstruction and improvements to the parking per the master plan to provide room for the Kettle River Trail. Since this removes the existing shelter, a new shelter is included along with a new restroom facility. It would be a new type of vault restroom and you can add heat to use it year-round which would be great for winter activities. It is a flush type of facility, so it will be just like a regular restroom and does not have an odor.

After much discussion, consensus was reached, and Option 3 was chosen. Vavricka stated concern for the dam, stating that it is dangerous the way it is and he is afraid someone will be hurt or even killed. He stated that he brought this up before; however, it isn't addressed in any of the options. George stated that perhaps because the dam is in the river, it would be appropriate for the City to meet with the DNR about it and pursue options through that avenue. Since the City will be meeting with the DNR about a group camping area, this could also be discussed.

- B. Commission Member Vacancy – Cassie Gaede at East Central and Sarah Swanson with Harvest Christian have been contacted about the vacancy to see if a Junior or Senior is interested. No takers yet. David Chasson was invited to today's meeting, as he may be interested in filling the vacancy.
- C. Group Camping Area – The DNR has been contacted; waiting to see which representative is the most appropriate to work with us. As mentioned previously, the dangers of the dam will also be discussed with the DNR.
- D. Angle Park – No news.
- E. Hockey Rink Update – Maintenance Worker Paul Peters has been working diligently to flood the rink. He has had some setbacks along the way; such as, frozen hydrants. But he has really been working hard at it.
- F. Gin Pole – Quotes will be obtained in the Spring.
- G. Stage at Robinson Park – Quotes will be obtained in the Spring.
- H. Robinson Park Camping Registrations – No registrations in January.
- I. Robinson Park Toilets – Staff has been checking into options for maintenance of the toilets. Staff at Banning State Park shared information regarding the type of odor neutralizer they use, the supplier and cost. The minimum quantities required are much more than the City would need; however, Commissioners felt that the 5-gallon pail minimum order of 11 for \$738.10 would be worth the cost if it helps to eliminate the odors. City staff is checking to see if Banning staff would be willing to sell the City some to try it out. Banning pumps their toilets when they are full; the City pumps them twice a year. Banning's toilets are vented with large PVC pipes that extend from the tank up through the building and outside; the City's has a large

galvanized pipe extending through. Banning has found some success with odor by keeping the tank water level higher than the solids; City staff will give this a try. Banning uses stick-on air fresheners that are replaced every 2 weeks; City staff can give this a try, too. Mikrot mentioned that there are floor drains in each stall that could be a source of odor, too. He will cover them up and see if that makes a difference as well.

Vavricka stated that it would be nice to have some sort of screen structure that could be used for changing clothes. People come to kayak the rapids and, afterwards, they prefer to change into dry clothes before getting back in their cars to leave. He will investigate options and bring information back to the Commission.

Other

George followed up with Al Wiberg of Midwest Mountain Guides, Brian Karban with the University of MN – Twin Cities Climbing Program, and Lucas Kramer with the University of MN – Duluth Climbing Program to let them know about the City's permit requirement and fee structure for the commercial use of Robinson Park. They all enthusiastically agreed to fill out the forms and submit the fee. They stated that they appreciate the use of Robinson Park and want to participate in any way and are glad that the City is regulating the use. The permit requirement has been added to the City's website on the Robinson Park page.

Vavricka stated that some communities have been able to create a surfing feature in their parks; such as in Charles City Iowa. He thinks this would be a viable option for Robinson Park. Franklin noted that she saw one in Germany, too.

Vavricka also suggested the City consider placing large boulders throughout town. These boulders are large enough for people to climb on and they become a tourist attraction. He stated that several could be placed at strategic locations throughout town. Each boulder costs about \$3,000.

Adjournment

Motion White, second Vavricka to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy George, City Administrator