

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Friday, March 9, 2018**

Members present: Dave Barsness, Dorothy Dybvig, Mary Franklin, Tony Vavricka, Eric Sturtz (arrived at 9:00)

Members absent: Karry White; Council Liaison Tim Franklin

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

Guests: David Chasson

Call to Order

Chair Barsness called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.

Agenda

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

Minutes

Motion Franklin, second Dybvig, to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2018 meeting as presented. Motion passed 4-0.

New Business

- A. Special Event Permit – Rapids Riders Whitewater Canoe and Kayak Club – The City received a Special Event Permit Application from Derek Grisbeck, President of the Rapids Riders Whitewater Canoe and Kayak Club. They are planning a “Rapids Riders Canoe U” event for June 1-3, 2018. They will be providing whitewater canoe and kayak courses taught by American Canoe Association (ACA) certified instructors. They estimate 50 people in attendance and are planning picnics and camping. They plan to rent 2 port-a-potties for the weekend.

After discussion, motion by Dybvig, second by Vavricka, to recommend the City Council approve the Special Event Permit for the Rapids Riders Whitewater Canoe and Kayak Club 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 4-0.

B. Tony Vavricka – Vavricka presented two ideas to the Commission for discussion:

Kettle River Whitewater Park – Vavricka suggested replacing the old, dangerous dam in Robinson Park with a man-made water feature, like a surf wave. This has been done in many other communities and he thinks it would be a good solution to the dam issue and bring more people to the community. He presented a proposal for conceptual design and feasibility investigation from Scott Shipley, S₂O Design and Engineering out of Lyons, Colorado. The scope of work would include determining the feasibility of the project, creating conceptual design layouts, and defining the project costs and steps to completion on a conceptual level for the selected design solution. The estimated cost for the proposal is \$13,200.

Commissioners were supportive of the idea. Some comments made include:

- Checking with the DNR on their willingness to work with the City on the concept / project;
- Are there any historical concerns regarding changes to the old dam site;
- How would occasional flooding and ice dams be addressed;
- Are trees a concern;
- Liability concerns;
- Perhaps the 2019 budget could allow funds for the study;
- Vavricka will check with Rapids Riders and others for possible support.

Climbing Boulders – Vavricka also presented concept plans for creating some sculptures that resemble stacked blocks and nature rock formations. These could be placed in various areas in town; such as, the cliff top, Lion’s Park, Train Park. They would encourage people to stop, get out of their cars, and climb the sculpture. Vavricka estimates the cost to be about \$3,000 per sculpture.

Commissioners were supportive of this concept as well; and mentioned several other ideas that have been tossed around in the past that they would like to pursue; such as, a walking trail with outdoor exercise features along the way. Administrator George suggested the Park & Rec Commission do a brainstorming session at the April meeting so that all ideas can be captured and prioritized.

Continuing Business

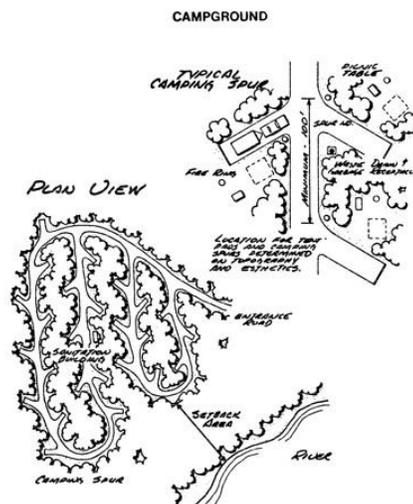
- A. Spring Clean Up – April 28th was chosen as the date for doing some brush work and tree cutting at Robinson Park. Wheel barrels and shovels will be needed. The Sandstone Lions will be invited to help out. Perhaps the electric company can help with chipping and/or provide chips for the walking trails. City staff is also working on City-wide clean up efforts; however, this will not affect the Park & Rec Commission.
- B. Arts in the Park – Hinckley’s events are Thursday nights; Pine City’s are Friday nights. Commissioners decided to try Tuesday nights in June for Sandstone this year.

It was also suggested to invite entities to give presentations prior to the concert; such as, the Audobon Center, Hard Water Sports, Robinson Park's Master Plan, etc.

- C. Kettle River Watershed Mural Project – The Quarry Lions, Sandstone Lions, and Sandstone Area Chamber of Commerce have all been asked if they would consider participating in the project (\$750 each). The Sandstone Lions executive board has approved their participation; the item will be brought to the full membership for a vote. The Quarry Lions and Chamber are bringing the request to their respective boards as well.
- D. Angle Park – Nothing new to report.
- E. Gin Pole – Quotes will be obtained in the Spring – Mikrot will start working on this.
- F. Stage at Robinson Park – Barsness suggested perhaps replacing the stage with some large, heavy-duty blocks of sandstone. It could be set a few feet in front of the climbing wall to allow for ice to melt/fall off as it does every spring. Commissioners were in favor of this idea.
- G. Robinson Park Camping Registrations – There was 1 registration in February for 2 nights stay.
- H. Robinson Park Toilets – Mikrot received some odor neutralizer chemical to try. He will also keep the water levels higher than the solids, try stick-on air fresheners, and cover the floor drains.
- I. Group Camping Area – The Kettle River has a “scenic” designation for the portion that is through town, including Robinson Park. Campgrounds are allowed along Scenic rivers – subject to management plan specifications. Structure setbacks apply: 150 feet from normal high water mark; 30 feet from bluffline.

Typical campground design from the management plan:

Subp. 6. Figure 6.



Previously, Commissioners were talking about designating a group camping area in Robinson Park; perhaps above the dam area, between the canoe access area, by the stage wall, or south of the crushers. Vavricka now suggests an area near Big Spring Falls, on a lot owned by the City. This will be part of the brainstorming session in April.

- J. Minnesota Climbers Association – Updates – The Commission received a report on Ice Fest from James Loveridge. There were about 150 people in attendance. Funds were raised to help repair the damage to the main water line and, hopefully, to put up new light strands and rebuild the ice lighting system.

A report on Peter Fest was also received from Peter Lenz. This was the 7th year for the event. About 60 climbers came out on Saturday, with about 30 heading to Rich's Bar for refreshments, socializing, and a pot luck. About 20 camped out Saturday night. Many went to Amy's for breakfast both Saturday and Sunday. Some of the participants came from Indiana, Atlanta, Texas, Milwaukee, Madison Wisconsin, and, of course, Minneapolis/St. Paul area.

Both groups expressed much appreciation for the use of Robinson Park, the City Crew, and Chair Barsness' support and assistance.

Other

Vavricka noted that the Kettle River Paddle Fest is the 1st weekend in May. The make-up date is the 3rd weekend in May. He will submit a Special Event Permit Application form for the April Commission meeting.

David Chasson expressed interest in serving on the Park & Rec Commission. **Motion by Franklin, second by Dybvig, to recommend the City Council appoint Chasson. Motion passed 5-0.**

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy George, City Administrator