

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Friday, April 13, 2018

Members present: Dave Barsness, Dorothy Dybvig, Mary Franklin, Tony Vavricka, Karry White, David Chasson; Council Liaison Tim Franklin

Members absent: Eric Sturtz

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

Guests: None

Call to Order

Chair Barsness called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

Agenda

Motion Franklin, second White, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed 6-0.

Minutes

Motion White, second Vavricka, to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2018 meeting as presented. Motion passed 6-0.

New Business

- A. **Brainstorming Session** – Administrator George introduced the agenda item, stating that in recent years, various projects have been proposed or discussed concerning Parks and Recreation events/activities for the City of Sandstone. It would be helpful to hold a brainstorming session to prioritize these projects.

For review, George referred to City Code 305.21 which states as follows:

The Park and Recreation Advisory Commission is established to promote the systematic, comprehensive development of park facilities and recreational activities necessary for the physical, mental, emotional, and moral health and well-being of the residents of the City.

The duties of the Commission are stated as follows:

The Park and Recreation Advisory Commission advises and makes recommendations to the City Council in matters pertaining to park and recreation programs in the City.

George presented a list of ideas/proposals that have come up, incorporating things mentioned in past meeting minutes, the Roadmap to the Future (2016) document, the newly revised Comprehensive Plan (2017), Robinson Park Master Plan (2016), and Thriving Communities materials. She invited Commissioners to remove items or add items that she may have missed, stating that the end result of the discussion would be for each Commissioner to choose their top 5 priorities. The data would then be

consolidated and discussion could be focused on the items that received the most “votes”.

Commissioner Vavricka handed out the following lists for review and information:

2018 Robinson Park Redevelopment Goals

- Goal 1: Provide a safe park for local families and visitors.
- Goal 2: Expand and develop the recreation opportunities for all ages.
- Goal 3: Develop and improve pedestrian connections between Robinson Park and the community.
- Goal 4: Make upgrades to meet the needs of existing and future population of Sandstone, MN.

Existing Conditions Summary (for Robinson Park)

- Purpose
 - Identify needs and document changes
 - Update recommendations
 - Implementation strategy, projects and funding
 - Direction and Design Concept for Park and Waterfront
- Condition Assessment
 - Dangerous remnants of dam need removal
 - No pedestrian access to Robinson Park
 - No access to drinking water
 - Public restrooms in need of improvements/redesign
 - Riverbank stabilization
 - Boat access above dam eroded and in need of redesign
 - Boat access below dam eroded, redesign needed for safe river access
 - Inadequate parking at Big Spring Falls
 - No in town signage directing visitors to Sandstone’s parks

Community Concerns (for Robinson Park)

Park safety for visitors

Cost of Robinson Park Improvement Plan

Level of maintenance required for plan

“Safe access connecting the town to Robinson Park for bikes and pedestrians would be a huge improvement.”

“Removing the old dam should have been done years ago, it’s a very dangerous place.”

“The bathrooms are disgusting.”

“It’s very dangerous, we’ve always told our kids to never swim there.”

“Public water access above and below the dam rapids need repairs.”

Commissioners reviewed the following lists and each Commissioner was asked to choose 5 items from the top list and 5 items from the Robinson Park list that they considered to be priorities. Votes were tallied and are noted in **red font**:

Billboard on northbound I-35	Outdoor Exercise Equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angle Park • Hospital/Medical Campus
(3) Develop Big Spring Falls Area	Develop trails at KREEC
(2) Signage to Parks	(3) Climbing Boulders in town
(4) Bike Trails – improve/maintain connection to Munger Trail	(3) Enhance Train Park – Town Square
(1) Pedestrian Connections	(3) Community Center
(2) Playground area downtown	Concession/Vendor Building at Train Park
Purchase shade sail	Seating at Softball Fields
(1) Cavitory Trail to access town	Horseback riding outdoor adventure park
(1) Tennis courts / Volleyball	(1) RV Park
(4) Information kiosks	Biking Event
Art camp / Art park	(2) Public Art / Murals
(1) Mini golf / driving range / laser tag / paintball area / disc golf course	
(2) Arts in the Park event	(1) Develop Community Park System Plan
(5) Acquire Angle Park from BNSF	Community Wellness Program

Robinson Park	
(8) Current Legacy Grant Application/Project	(2) Small Playground area at Robinson Park
(3) Robinson / Banning Connection	Group Camp Site at Robinson Park
(1) Art Walk Bridge over River	Fishing Pier at Robinson
(1) Trail markings to park	Old Wagon Wheel Road – bridge as pedestrian / hike / snow / ski crossing to east side
(1) Continuous path from old quarry to new dam	Snow caves
(1) Camper cabins at Robinson	Electricity for climbing walls
(2) Develop historic dam overlook site	Add more park shelters at Robinson
More site amenities at Robinson	Educational signage at Robinson
(2) Historical interpretation info at Robinson	Trails from/to town
(3) Upper Robinson (parking, playground, trails, camp sites, restrooms, picnic shelter)	(4) Lower Robinson – South (vault restroom, overlooks, trail system, interpretation, picnic shelter, parking, pedestrian bridge, signage, bank stabilization)
(4) Lower Robinson – Central (trails, restroom, overlooks, interpretation, picnic shelter, parking, signage, bank stabilization, youth play/instruction, river access/portage, dam overlook, plaza, guy derrick display, gathering area)	(1) Lower Robinson – North (trails, interpretation, river access/portage, picnic shelter, boardwalk)
(2) Replace / Improve Stage	(1) Surf Park
(2) Improve River access	(1) Drinking Water
(2) Remove dam	

After the tally, Commissioners discussed various items:

- The Legacy Grant application likely overlaps some of the features described in Upper Robinson and Lower Robinson (Central, North and South); Staff will review this in more detail so that the Commission can better prioritize projects for Robinson Park.
- The County is planning to add the Munger Trail connecting segment to an upcoming 2019 project; the City will have a financial obligation but it should be feasible.
- The current information panels on the kiosk at Train Park could be utilized more to include a map of town, local businesses to visit, and the park system/features.
- Developing KREEC should be a low priority for now, since the State is doing environmental assessment/clean up from the old creosote plant.
- Perhaps the Commission could consider, or discuss, the option of dissolving Angle Park.
 - The City is currently paying BNSF an annual lease, which was \$2,214 in 2017 and will increase 3% each year.
 - The hockey rink has been very difficult to maintain and there doesn't seem to be much demand. Perhaps more focus could be put on the Lions Hill skating rink.
 - Perhaps the skatepark could be relocated.
 - Perhaps the warming house could be repurposed and used as a concession building at Train Park.

Discussion will continue at the next Park & Rec Commission meeting.

Continuing Business

- A. Spring Clean Up – April 28th at Robinson Park; Alana Tyson will also have girl scouts out and about at Train Park, Angle Park, and Johnson Park. There was discussion about getting a chipper; however, it was decided to wait until after the event to see how much brush is gathered. The City will provide pizza and water.
- B. Arts in the Park – Tuesdays in June. Commissioners discussed dividing up the duties.
- Line up artists – *Commissioner Vavricka will work on this*
 - Line up food vendors
 - Line up presentations/featured items – *Administrator George will work on this*
 - Promotion / Advertising – *Commissioner White will work on this*
 - Restroom facilities – *Administrator George will work on this*

Vavricka, White and George will meet separately to work out the details.

- 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 have contributed \$750. The Chamber has declined to participate. We are still waiting to see if the Quarry Lions will participate. As of now, there is a \$1,500 shortfall for the project. The grant from East Central Regional Arts Council has been approved for \$7,000.

- D. Angle Park – No news. There was discussion about the BNSF lease, which is an indefinite term lease from March through February each year. The lease can be terminated with 30 days written notice; but first all of the City’s improvements must be removed.
- E. Gin Pole – Streets and Park Supervisor Mikrot will start getting quotes.
- F. Stage at Robinson Park – Last month, Chair Barsness suggested we think about replacing the stage with large sandstone boulders. Mike Johnson has the large boulders that were removed from the new hospital site. He is willing to meet with us to take a look at them and see if they will work.
- G. Robinson Park Camping Registrations – There were no registrations in March.

Other

Chair Barsness turned in an inspection form for Robinson Park.

The City received a letter from Pine County Soil & Water Conservation District introducing new forester Paul Swanson and offer his services for forestry planning needs. Administrator George will contact him about helping to identify and map the significant trees in the Business Park so that interested developers will be aware of the City’s requirements.

The City also received a quote for a Management Contract covering the City’s rain garden by the car wash at Chris’ Food Center. For \$500, Prairie Restorations, Inc. will take care of the spring dormant mow and vegetation management.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy George, City Administrator