

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

Friday, September 14, 2018

**Members present:** Dave Barsness, Dorothy Dybvig, Tony Vavricka, Mary Franklin, David Chasson, Eric Sturtz; Council Liaison Tim Franklin

**Members absent:** Karry White

**Staff Present:** Administrator Kathy George

**Guests:** Banning State Park Manager Clarissa Payne

**Call to Order**

Chair Barsness called the meeting to order at 8:12 a.m.

**Agenda**

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

**Minutes**

**Motion Franklin, second Sturtz, to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2018 meeting as presented. Motion passed 6-0.**

**New Business**

A. Clarissa Payne – Banning State Park

- i. Annual Youth Hunt – Banning State Park is planning their annual Youth Hunt event for October 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Park Manager Payne explained that they have six hunters signed up. Each will be paired with a licensed adult. They each provide the coordinates for where their stands will be. The hunters do not roam around the area, but hunt from their designated stands. The hunt area includes a small corner of City property. Payne is asking the City to waive ordinances 935.05 (firearms) and 945 (use of firearms) to allow for this event. **Motion Barsness, second Vavricka, to recommend the City Council waive ordinances 935.05 and 945 for the annual Banning State Park Youth Hunt on October 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Motion passed 6-0.**
- ii. Other Discussion – Commissioners discussed several other items with Payne, as follows:
  - Homeless camper – Payne contacted the Conservation Officer who is working with the individual, trying to find adequate housing. During the process, the individual disappeared. They then cleaned up the site. Commissioner Vavricka would like to see the area used by the public, perhaps making it accessible to rock climbers. Payne stated that the designated areas for rock climbing right now include the Johnson property and Teacher’s Overlook.
  - Big Spring Falls – Payne reported that they have been trying to address the vandalism that keeps happening in this area. The DNR has been trying to

install signage for public use; however, the signs are continually vandalized. This is a current priority.

- Road to Big Spring Falls area – there was discussion about the condition of the road, ownership of the road, Minnesota Power’s presence, the gate, and how to build the road up and make the area more user friendly. Administrator George will work with Payne to figure out options.
- Grooming Trails – A group from Moose Lake has contacted Payne about grooming the trails. There are insurance concerns. Payne would rather see a local group come out and work with the DNR on getting the trails groomed.

### Continuing Business

- A. Legacy Grant Application – Robinson Park – The grant application was submitted on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Applicants will be notified in December, then the requests go on to the Legislature. If approved, contracts could begin after July 1<sup>st</sup>. There was a total of \$20,244,963 requested, and there is about \$8,500,000 available.
- B. Kettle River Watershed Mural Project – Plans are firming up for the October 6<sup>th</sup> celebration of the mural. Musician Todd Eckart has been secured. The Sandstone Lions Club is working on plans for a Brew Fest event, along with selling food. A meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00 p.m. to firm up the plans.
- C. Johnson Park – Administrator George reported that she met with local handyman Rod Zacharias to take a look at the shelter. The front pole is secure in the ground, but all the other poles have heaved up. George is waiting for a quote from Zacharias. After discussion, **motion by Vavricka, second by Sturtz, authorizing the repair if the quote is under \$5,000. Motion passed 4-2. Commissioners Dybvig and Chasson stated that they were comfortable with the Administrator using her judgment on the repair, rather than setting a limit.**
- D. Angle Park – Administrator George spoke with Cody Degraffenreid, Skatepark Specialist with the American Ramp Company, about the possibility of moving the skatepark. He provided some helpful feedback and information. Commissioners asked that Degraffenreid provide a quote for moving the skatepark for planning purposes.

Additionally, George reported that representatives from Members Credit Union met with the City about options they are pursuing for their former building/site. One option includes demolishing the building and creating a park. They would want to work with the City on this and would want the City to own the park. Commissioners were supportive of this option.

- E. Gin Pole – Dan Lang has been contacted for a quote. John Dorau was also asked for a quote. Chair Barsness recently spoke with Dan Lang. Lang said he is trying to figure out how to keep the pole secure while working on the base.

- F. Stage at Robinson Park – Mike Johnson has been busy working on the City’s River Bluff Street Improvement project. With that project nearing completion, Johnson will be contacted again to work on this project.
- G. Train Park Kiosk – Work continues for designs of the following:
- a. City Parks
  - b. Robinson Park
  - c. Directory of Businesses in town
  - d. Directory of non-profits and service organizations in town
  - e. Quarry Days
  - f. History of Sandstone
- H. Timber Harvest – Administrator George reported that loggers have been in town for the past few weeks and have now finished. They harvested trees on the KREEC site and on a portion of the Business Park property. The original estimate was in the amount of \$19,100. The exact amount is unknown, but the contractor is completing their paperwork and will send a check soon. George stated that the Tree Fund currently has a balance of \$1,704.23. The KREEC fund has a balance of \$36,476.38.
- I. Robinson Park Camping Statistics – There were 12 registrations in August, with 23 days of camping recorded.

It was noted that the Fall Climbers Fest is taking place this weekend.

Chair Barsness reported that there is a tree down by the entrance to the camping area. There is also a tree down in Campsite 3. George will follow up with Staff.

**Other** – Administrator George asked if Commissioners knew of any groups interested in Pickle Ball. There was discussion about how popular it has become. Perhaps there is a group at the High School. Some felt that an indoor court is desired/better suited for playing the game.

### **Adjournment**

**Motion Dybvig, second Franklin, to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 a.m. Motion passed 6-0.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy George, City Administrator