

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
Friday, October 12, 2018

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

**Members absent:** David Chasson

**Staff Present:** Administrator Kathy George

**Guests:** None

**Call to Order**

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

**Agenda**

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

**Minutes**

**Motion White, second Dybvig, to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2018 meeting as presented. Motion passed 6-0.**

**New Business**

- A. KREEC – Metal Pieces – At the October 3<sup>rd</sup> City Council meeting, Council Members discussed the metal/old dam structure that is currently being stored by the old building on the KREEC property. They wondered if it could be disposed of, perhaps sold for scrap.

Park Commissioners discussed the structure. Some Commissioners were unfamiliar with it; therefore, it was decided that once the Park Commission meeting was over, everyone would go out to the KREEC property and take a look.

While out at the site, some Commissioners explained that the dam structure was removed from the Kettle River and was placed at KREEC to be used as an environmental display, with signage explaining what it is. Future plans for the property include creating trails for hiking and ATVs. It would also be nice to use the building – perhaps offering it for camping or retreats. These are ideas to be explored in the future. At this time Commissioners felt that the structure should remain in place. It's not hurting anything and, in the future, they may want to have signage made and have it on display.

While there, Commissioners noticed that the door on the building is not secure and that a couple of windows are broken, allowing access inside the building. Staff will follow up and secure the building.

**Continuing Business**

- A. Legacy Grant Application – Robinson Park – Nothing new to report, just waiting to hear if the City's grant request would be funded.

- B. Kettle River Watershed Mural Project – The unveiling took place Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup> as part of the Oktoberfest activities. The Sandstone Lions Club served beer, brats and hot dogs. The American Legion served popcorn. The Garden Club served apple slices with homemade caramel sauce and peanuts. David Chasson served hot apple cider. Pumpkin carving was a hit. Decorations were set up for photo opportunities. Kids games were coordinated by Carole Bersin and Julie Domogalla, with assistance/participation from The Tree House. There were 5 crafters set up. Music was provided by Nathan Fraser and Todd Eckart. Many people gathered for the mural ribbon cutting.

Overall, it was a really fun day. If it had been a little warmer, with the sun shining through, more people would have participated. Those that did come seemed to really enjoy themselves.

The Lions talked about doing Oktoberfest again next year. Todd Eckart has been booked. It was suggested that next year perhaps some activities could take place at Robinson Park as well.

- C. Johnson Park – Local handyman Rod Zacharias provided a quote to repair the shelter for a total of \$2,442.36, which includes all necessary materials and equipment rental. Zacharias has started the work and found that the ground is full of rocks/boulders, making it very difficult to dig footings. So, he is renting some different equipment to help get the job done.
- D. Pine Avenue – Big Spring Falls – After last month’s meeting, Banning Park Manager Clarissa Payne and Administrator George went out to look at Pine Avenue – the City portion of the road. The road is in a little better condition because the loggers did some work on it in order to complete the timber harvest. However, it is in need of repair. George met with Streets & Parks Supervisor Craige Hiler and City Engineer/Inspector Steve Rose to discuss options. Steve and Craige will work together to come up with a plan and cost estimates.
- E. Stage at Robinson Park – With the River Bluff project nearing completion, Johnson will be contacted again to work on this project.
- F. 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
- G. 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.

Some Commissioners expressed shock and frustration with the amount of trees that were cut. Some areas were clear-cut and do not look very appealing for tourists and visitors. Commissioner White felt that the City's Tree Ordinance should have been followed. Commissioners asked for copies of the Forest Management Plan. They also agreed to look at the areas after the meeting ends today.

- H. Robinson Park Camping Statistics – There were 10 registrations in September, with 13 days of camping recorded.

It was noted that Ice Fest will take place the first weekend in January.

**Other** – The Commission received a report on the Climbers Fest, which took place September 14-16, from James Loveridge with the Minnesota Climbers Association. Turnout was less than expected (65-70) due to rain on Friday. They raised about \$800 for their organization and everyone had a great time. Loveridge wrote, “We want to thank the City of Sandstone for embracing climbers as a user group and allowing us to have our events in your city & park. You have a truly unique and under-appreciated resource there in Robinson park!”

### **Adjournment**

**Motion White, second Franklin, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 a.m. and head out to view the KREEC site and the timber harvest areas. Motion passed 6-0.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy George, City Administrator