

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Friday, November 8, 2019

Members present: Dave Barsness, Dorothy Dybvig, Eric Sturtz, David Chasson, Karry White

Members absent: Tony Vavricka, Mary Franklin

Staff Present: Administrator Kathy George

Other: Council Liaison Val Palmer, Oliver Dykstra

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:09 a.m. by Chair Dybvig.

Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approve Agenda

Christmas Event was given as an addition to the Agenda. **Motion by White, second by Sturtz, to approve the Agenda with the addition. Motion passed 5-0.**

Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion by Chasson, second by White, to approve the minutes from the September 20, 2019 and October 11, 2019 meetings. Motion passed 5-0.

New Business

Trees in Train Park – A community member suggested the City plant trees in Train Park to provide some much-needed shade. Commissioners discussed the suggestion and agreed that trees would be helpful, if placed properly. They also thought that a couple of more substantial-sized trees would be good. This could be part of an Arbor Day event. Administrator George agreed to discuss the idea with the Sandstone Area Chamber of Commerce, especially in consideration of Quarry Days activities. Commissioner White agreed to check with Happylands for suggestions, pricing, and installation options.

Code of Conduct – Mayor Spartz and Council Member Palmer were both at the October Park Commission meeting when this item was originally discussed. They thought that the City Council should adopt a Code of Conduct that all boards and commissions would follow. At the October 16th Council Meeting, the Council was agreeable to working on a Code of Conduct that would be beneficial to all City boards and commission. That work will continue by the City Council. Commissioners were asked to review the draft that was provided with the Agenda packet and to provide any comments and feedback for Council consideration.

Christmas Event – The Commission received a request from the Sandstone Area History & Art Center for participation in their 3rd Annual Christmas Event. The area Veterans will also be hosting activities at the Veterans Memorial, which will culminate in Santa's arrival in a fire truck, followed by a light supper at the Fire Hall. **Motion by Dybvig, second by Barsness, to contribute \$100 towards advertising for the event. Motion passed 5-0.**

Commissioners noted that this contribution is a one-time occurrence. Future requests will be considered on an individual basis.

Continuing Business

The following update was provided on the various items listed as Continuing Business on the Agenda:

Lions Hill Chalet. Local handyman Rod Zacharias has finished his work on the windows, trim, painting, adding a step to the front entryway, and shelving. Painting will occur next year in the spring/summer months. Commissioners looked at the plaque that will be placed in the building acknowledging the Sandstone Lions' donation in memory of Frank Loken.

Robinson Park.

- The Legacy Grant application was submitted. There were 22 applications submitted, totaling \$27,628,623 and there is \$9,984,064 available to grant; it is expected the recommendations of the Greater MN Parks & Trails Commission will be completed in November.

A grant application for the cultural landscape report that will be required has been submitted to the MN Historical Society.

- Gin Pole –In discussions with the MN Historical Society, it was determined that a separate Conditions Assessment report is needed for this project. The deadline to apply for a grant is in January. Staff will submit an application.
- Robinson Park Camping Statistics – There were 10 registrations for 13 days of camping in October.

KREEC Site Redevelopment. The Dovetail team came for a site visit on October 22nd at 10:30 a.m. Attendees included Kathy George, Dave Chasson, Mary Franklin, Pete Spartz, Mark Jacobs, Ashley McFarland, Ron Potter.

The group met at City Hall for about 45 minutes, before heading out to the site where they hiked through the property for over an hour.

At the meeting, it was determined that the outreach parameters would be Moose Lake (north), Pine City (South), Mora (West), and the Wisconsin border (east). Community feedback would be collected via written letters or e-mails, with contact info provided. Relevant newspapers/publications include: Pine County Courier, Evergreen, Askov American, Hinckley News, Moose Lake Star-Gazette, Kanabec County Times.

A Facebook page will be created, with a link to the City Facebook page. Others are welcome to share the link as well.

The Dovetail team has scheduled a public open house for December 3rd from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the North Pine Government Center building. They are sending notices to the various

newspaper outlets. Visitors will have an opportunity to look at large scale maps depicting various features (water, topography, soils, etc.) of the project area and provide input/comments. Paper comment forms will be available as well. The team will also give updates at City Council, Economic Development, and Park Commission meetings if requested. They will be reaching out to important stakeholders such as Area DNR, Pine County, Local ATV groups, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Audubon Center, and the Chamber of Commerce.

Dovetail's goal in this feasibility phase is to gather community input to gauge interest and review concerns regarding the proposal. The team will report the feasibility of the project moving forward based on the findings in terms of overall support and suggest potential mitigating strategies to address public concerns.

Other – Commissioner Barsness turned in his inspection report for Robinson Park, noting that a tree was down in campsite 2.

Oliver Dykstra was introduced to the Commission. He stated that he is interested in serving on the Commission if an opening presents itself.

Adjourn

Consensus of the Commissioners was to hold the December meeting at Sprouts on 5th.
Motion by Barsness, second by White, to adjourn at 9:00 a.m. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy George, City Administrator