

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Friday, December 13, 2019

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

Members absent: Mary Franklin

Staff Present: Administrator Kathy George

Other: Council Liaison Val Palmer, Oliver Dykstra

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:08 a.m. by Chair Dybvig.

Approve Agenda

Mary Franklin Resignation was given as an addition to the Agenda. **Motion by White, second by Chasson, to approve the Agenda with the addition. Motion passed 6-0.**

Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion by White, second by Chasson, to approve the minutes from the November 8, 2019 meeting. Motion passed 6-0.

New Business

Mary Franklin Resignation – The City received a resignation from long-time Park & Rec Commission Member Mary Franklin, who is moving out of the area. Oliver Dykstra has expressed interest in serving on the Commission. **Motion by White, second by Vavricka, to regrettably accept the resignation of Mary Franklin and, further, to recommend the City Council appoint Oliver Dykstra to fill the vacant position. Motion passed 6-0.** Commissioners would like to send a thank-you card to Franklin.

Continuing Business

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

Robinson Park.

- Legacy Grant Application – The City received notice that the Greater MN Parks & Trails Commission is recommending to the Legislature that the Robinson Park project be approved for a grant in the amount of \$902,654. This is \$255,000 LESS than the request (which was \$1,157,654). The local match, based on the requested amount, is \$128,906. The Commission did not fund restrooms (\$135,000), picnic shelter and tables (\$80,000), or the concrete shelter plaza (\$40,000), stating that funds are limited; however, they recommend these items be included in future funding requests.

Commissioners discussed the process and the options. The funds are not available until after the Legislature officially passes the bonding bill. In the interim, the

Commission decided that they would like to entertain proposals from several engineering firms for the plans, specifications, and execution of the project.

- A grant application for the cultural landscape report that will be required was submitted October 11th to the MN Historical Society. Award notifications are sent out 8 weeks after (which was December 6th). Hopefully, the City will hear something soon.
- 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 January 10th. Administrator George has heard from one consultant, who stated that the City should send the initial engineer’s evaluation letter and the information received from contractor AMR to the Historical Society, stating that perhaps this information will suffice for the Conditions Assessment. If that is the case, the City could apply for funding for the plans and specifications stage. George has submitted this information to the Historical Society and is waiting for a response.
- Robinson Park Camping Statistics – There was 1 registration for 1 day of camping in November.
- Inspection Form – Commissioner Barsness submitted his inspection form for Robinson Park, noting that the roads have not been plowed as of this morning.

KREEC Site Redevelopment. The public input session was held on Tuesday, December 3rd, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. There were about 30 people who stopped in during that time. The consultant, Dovetail Partners, has been receiving comments as well. They plan to update the EDA at the December 16th EDA meeting, at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Commissioners Chasson and Barsness attended the public input session, as well as Dykstra. Some stated that they did not feel that their questions were answered. Some were disappointed that there was minimal information provided – just a map of the KREEC site as it currently is, with no specifics on a potential layout for the proposed ATV training/obstacle course. Others had questions about what the cost will be to create the training/obstacle course. Concern was noted about the possibility that, if the City did invest in the course and it was successful, neighboring communities may also create their own courses. Concern was also noted that the ATV use is a threat to the image of green tourism, which brings people to the area for rafting, ice climbing, and hiking and could, therefore, chase away that group of tourists.

George stated that she will e-mail out the Dovetail Partners proposal again, so that everyone has a chance to review it. She also encouraged all to attend the EDA meeting on Monday and/or to provide comments to Dovetail Partners directly.

Other – The potential to host another City Skate & Slide event was discussed. **Motion by Vavricka, second by Barsness, to host the 2nd Annual City Skate & Slide event on Saturday, February 1, 2020. Motion passed 6-0.**

Warming House Attendant Barb Heil expressed her appreciation for all of the repairs that were made to the chalet this year.

Commissioners discussed the start time for Commission meetings. It was decided to start them at 8:30 and to hold them at Sprouts in 2020.

Adjourn

Motion by Barsness, second by Chasson, to adjourn at 9:05 a.m. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy George, City Administrator