

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Friday, February 14, 2020

Members present: Dave Barsness, Dorothy Dybvig (arrived at 9:30), Eric Sturtz, David Chasson, Karry White, Tony Vavricka

Members absent: Oliver Dykstra

Staff Present: Administrator Kathy George

Other: Council Liaison Val Palmer, Streets & Parks Supervisor Craige Hiler

Call to Order

The meeting took place at Sprouts on 5th and was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Vice-Chair Barsness.

Approve Agenda

Motion by White, second by Chasson, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion passed 5-0.

Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion by White, second by Sturtz, to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2020 meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

New Business

20/20 Festivals / Events – Commissioners discussed the following festivals and events:

- Earth Day (April 22) / Arbor Day (April 24): Commissioners had previously discussed planting a couple mature trees in Train Park to provide more shade. They agreed to fold this into an Earth Day / Arbor Day celebration, along with park clean-up activities, on Saturday, April 25th from 9:00 a.m. – noon. Pine County Soil and Water should be contacted for available resources. Commissioner White will contact HappyLands Tree Farm regarding the trees. An application can be submitted to Casey's for help with food/refreshments. The Girl Scouts will be notified, as they typically will help with park clean up. The Climbers will also be notified; however, that is the weekend of an expo in the Cities, which might limit their involvement. Others will also be invited to participate or help spread the word: Chamber, Lions, Quarry Lions, Boy Scouts, East Central, Osprey. Piles of woodchips are available for Robinson Park.
- Arts in the Park – Tuesdays in June: There will be 5 Tuesdays in June this year. Commissioner Vavricka will line up the musicians. Commissioner Chasson will contact OSAC to see if they are interested in participating. Administrator George will contact the American Legion, Dairy Association, VFW about serving food. Council Liaison Palmer will contact the Quarry Lions. There was discussion about how to bring more people to the event. Perhaps there could be a bouncy feature for kids each week. Perhaps other groups in the community could be invited to plan something (with a \$200 budget provided by the Park Commission). Perhaps each Commissioner would be interested in planning something for one night (with the \$200 budget).

Perhaps local artists could be invited to “drop in” or to provide demonstrations. The bandshell is in need of repairs and painting.

- National Night Out – August 4th: This event will follow the same format as last year, which was very successful.
- Quarry Days – August 14-15: Commissioners would like to have a float in the parade. More conversation will take place regarding whether or not the Commission would like to participate in other ways.
- Robinson Park – Fall Clean up: The Climbers will be asked what date/weekend will work best for them.
- Oktoberfest – October 3: Penny and Tom, who are affiliated with Karry’s church, would like to work with the Commission on this event. They are involved with the Bavarian Musikmeisters. Commissioners were in agreement that they would like to work with Penny and Tom on this event.

Pine County Parks and Recreation Study – The County just completed a study on how they could use their tax forfeited properties for recreational purposes. Commissioners were provided with a copy of the study. The study recommends a new regional park just south of Sandstone on the Kettle River. Commissioners were very interested in this idea. Pine County Land and Resources Manager Caleb Anderson will be invited to the March meeting.

Continuing Business

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

Lions Hill – Projects for this year include painting the chalet inside and out, running water to the building, and addressing the sanitary sewer situation. Commissioners agreed that one bathroom could be converted to storage and a large sink. Otherwise, the skating hill is going well. The crew did not have much luck with creating ice for skating. They will use the liner previously purchased (for the hockey rink) next year, along with some dirt work at the site. The City Skate & Slide event was wonderful and very well attended. Warming House Attendant Barb Heil was overwhelmed by the certificate of appreciation and the \$70 gift certificate to Chris’ Foods.

KREEC Site – There was much discussion about the ATV Training/Obstacle Course Feasibility Study at the January 22nd EDA meeting. Mark Jacobs, Dovetail Partners, did not recommend moving forward with the proposed project. The EDA then asked the Park Commission to consider other options for the site and report back. Commissioners were provided with a copy of Dovetail Partners’ final report. Dovetail recommends the project be put on hold and that the City focus efforts on working with the DNR, Pine County, and local ATV clubs to attempt to connect the City to an existing ATV trail system. As an afterthought, Mark Jacobs also suggested the City look into the possibility of creating a zip line canopy tour project.

Commissioner Chasson suggested forming a committee that would include Commissioners, an EDA representative, community representatives, businesses. He stated that the building should be removed. The Fire Department will be asked to consider a training burn. The wood stove should be preserved or offered for sale. Anderson Recycling will be asked to remove the turbine. Chasson suggested perhaps the property on the west side of Old Military Road be sold. The unused well and septic should be capped/abandoned. Perhaps the septic tank can be used at Lions Hill. The committee will also look at mapping, signage, and perhaps a new name for the property.

Osprey Wilds – (formerly known as the Audubon Center of the North Woods). Communication Director Carly Gelderman recently met with Pine County Courier Editor Alanea White. Gelderman might be helpful with planning for the KREEC site.

Peter Fest – is coming up February 29-March 1

Willard Munger Trail Section – George received an update from County Engineer Mark LeBrun about the possibility of working together to get the section along Highway 61 repaired. LeBrun stated that he doesn't have any funding at this point, but trails are on the radar of the County Board and he will keep this in the discussion.

Robinson Park – No registered campers in January.

Other – The written journal/notes kept by Warming House Attendant Barb Heil for the month of January were shared with the Commission. Over 800 people visited the sliding hill during the month.

Adjourn

Motion by Chasson, second by White, to adjourn at 9:45 a.m. Motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy George, City Administrator