

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Friday, July 10, 2020

This meeting took place via Zoom Video Conference

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

Members absent: Oliver Dykstra, Eric Sturtz

Staff Present: Administrator Kathy George, Streets & Parks Supervisor Craig Hiler

Other: None

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chair Dybvig.

Approve Agenda

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

Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion White, second Chasson, to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2020 meeting.

Motion passed 5-0.

New Business

Priority Setting Session Outcomes – Over the past several years, the Sandstone community has undergone many planning and community input processes and procedures; such as:

- Business Retention & Expansion Study
- Cluster and Rail Study
- Roadmap to the Future
- Wayfinding Signage Plan
- Comprehensive Plan
- Housing Study
- Retail and Service Market Analysis
- Brainstorming sessions the EDA has held
- Pine County Parks & Recreation Study
- Market Analysis for the Sandstone Business Park
- Community Vision Progress Report (regarding the Library)
- ATV Training/Obstacle Course Feasibility Study
- Robinson Park Master Plan

The EDA enlisted the services of The Northspan Group to consolidate all of the “to-do” items from these various reports, and facilitate a priority setting process. Commissioners were provided with the complete report and they reviewed the summary of outcomes.

Many of the priorities noted included Park & Rec Commission interests; such as, playgrounds, courts, baseball fields, Robinson Park, KREEC site, community social groups, community gardens, and Train Park bandshell. Commissioners discussed the process and whether or not to hold their own priority setting session, taking into account the outcomes presented.

Commissioner White stated that many of the participants would like to see a centrally-located playground. She spoke with Cassie Gaede about the playground at East Central. The Commission agreed that a team approach to developing a playground would be helpful. Commissioners White and Barsness agreed to work with George and others on the project. Gaede (representing the City Council and the EDA) will be asked to participate, as well as others from the community.

Continuing Business

KREEC Site – Commissioner Chasson and Administrator George have been working on finding a wetland consultant to help with planning the boardwalks. The County Zoning Administrator is in the process of hiring a wetland specialist, but they are just in the interview process. George will follow up with the County to see if this new person could provide assistance.

S&P Supervisor Hiler reported that he took pictures of the stove inside the building and will have the item listed on the Public Surplus Auction site.

Robinson Park

Camping - We had 37 registrations for 53 days of camping in June. Another record-setting month!! Staff is looking into on-line registration options.

Legacy Grant – George reported that she finished the application for the DNR contract. She is waiting the DNR representative to get back to her regarding a few questions she had. Hopefully, the paperwork/grant documents can be wrapped up soon.

2nd Legacy Grant Application - The City is being encouraged by GMRPTC to submit an application for FY22 funding to include the items that were not allowed in the Phase 1 project – vault restroom, picnic shelter & tables, and concrete shelter plaza. Total estimated cost was \$290,000 (GMRPTC portion was \$255,000, but the total estimated cost of these items is \$290,000). The application deadline is July 31st. The 10% match would be \$29,000, but could change based on the updated estimates. George plans to get the application submitted by July 24th.

Road – S&P Supervisor Hiler reported that his crew is in the process of building up the road with fill, then gravel will be brought in.

Train Park – Planting of Trees. All 4 of the new trees have been planted.

2020 Festivals / Events

- Arts in the Park – previously, the Commission had decided to postpone these events due to the COVID-19 situation. After further discussion, consensus was to move ahead with Arts in the Park on Tuesdays in August. Commissioner Vavricka will set up the musicians. Administrator George will contact the food vendors, OSAC, and place a notice in the newspaper. The bandshell will be used and S&P Supervisor Hiler will have benches placed so that people can practice social distancing.
- National Night Out – August 4th – the National Night Out website states that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they are strongly recommending that all NNO 2020 areas celebrate on

October 6th, the first Tuesday in October. Commissioners concurred and the event will take place Tuesday, October 6th in Train Park.

- Robinson Park – Fall Clean Up:
 - Administrator George will check with the climbers on a date. It has also been rumored that the Climbers Fall Fest has been cancelled; George will verify that as well.

- Oktoberfest – October 3rd:
 - Working with Tim and Penny on the details
 - Bavarian Musikmeisters have been hired for \$1,000 to perform from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
 - The Chamber, the Quarry Lions, the Sandstone Lions all want to be involved
 - Commissioners White, Dybvig, and Chasson have all agreed to help with the event
 - A date/time for a planning meeting will be set up

Other

- A Google Statistics report regarding Robinson Park was reviewed
- Special Event Permit was approved for BSA Troop 5 (camping at Robinson Park on July 10-12).
- An Eagle Scout is looking for a project – ideas are welcome.

Adjourn

Motion Barsness, second Vavricka, to adjourn at 9:15 a.m. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy George, City Administrator