

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, August 14, 2020

This meeting took place via Zoom Video Conference

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

Members absent: Oliver Dykstra, Karry White

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

Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion Chasson, second Barsness, to approve the minutes from the July 10, 2020 meeting.

Motion passed 5-0.

New Business

Best of Pine County – The City received notification from North Star Media that Robinson Park was nominated as the Best Local Park of Pine County. The newspaper has put together “Vote for Me” packages that will run in the 4 newspapers (Hinckley News, Askov American, Pine County Courier, and Pine City Pioneer) for four weeks. Two options were available: \$399 for a 2 col x 3” full color print ad or \$799 for a 4 col x 3” full color print ad. Commissioners agreed to purchase the \$399 package.

Continuing Business

Robinson Park

Camping – There were 33 registrations for 57 days of camping in July. That’s the highest number of days in one month since we started keeping track. Staff is looking into on-line registrations options.

Legacy Grant – The only item needed in order to finalize the DNR contract is the review by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Administrator George is working on the request for review and hopes to have it completed in the next couple of days.

The grant application was submitted to the MN Historical Society for the Cultural Landscape Report. Grant awards will be announced in December. The CLR is a necessary component of the Legacy Grant project.

2nd Legacy Grant Application – The grant application was submitted 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 updated estimated cost is \$357,500 (local match of \$35,750).

A site visit has been planned for today at 10:00 a.m. Joe Czapiewski and Renee Mattson plan to attend on behalf of the Greater MN Regional Parks & Trails Commission. Park Commissioners are welcome, too.

Minnesota Climbers Association – Commissioner Barsness met with the climbers recently. They are interested in working with the City to extend electricity to the shed. Previously, a cost of \$5,000 was determined. **Motion Vavricka, second Barsness, to approve splitting the cost 50/50 with the Climbers Association. Motion carried 5-0.**

There was also discussion about the desire to bring electricity to the climbing wall area. This will be discussed with the engineers who will be working on the Phase 1 Robinson Park Project to see what the possibilities are.

Barsness also reported that the Climbers are interested in working with East Central High School – getting the students out for park clean up and then providing some rock climbing clinics. Barsness will put them in touch with Counselor Cassie Gaede.

KREEC Site – David Chasson met with Caleb Anderson, Pine County Land Resources Manager and Planning & Zoning, to review the site. Anderson provided a draft sketch plan and will discuss the site with the regional Wetlands Specialist from the State Board of Water and Soil Resources. Anderson will get some input on foot path construction ideas to minimize impact in order to help keep the project within the exemption standards of the Wetlands Conservation Act. He will also discuss it at the next monthly WCA meeting with State officials on August 19th. Chasson noted that Anderson was also interested in connecting this property to the tax forfeited parcel south of town, which could possibly become a Pine County Regional Park.

Lions Hill – Streets & Parks Supervisor Hiler reported that the water and sewer upgrades are complete. He is now getting quotes on upgrading the toilets and sinks. He received a quote of \$3,650 to paint the inside and outside of the chalet. He will proceed with this work.

2020 Festivals / Events

- Arts in the Park is under way. The line up this year is as follows:

August 3rd – Minor Birds (about 80 people attended)

August 11th – Eddy Jeff Cahill

August 18th – Rob McGown

August 25th – Nathan & Nef U

The Dairy Association is selling ice cream. The Legion is selling pop, water, and popcorn. On August 3rd, the Quarry Lions held a successful bake sale.

- National Night Out – October 6th – planning will start soon, keeping an eye on the COVID-19 situation.
- Robinson Park – Fall Clean Up:
 - Climbers will get back to Barsness with a date; perhaps the Boy Scouts are interested in participating.
 - Sandstone Climbers Fest has been cancelled for this year

- Oktoberfest – October 3rd: Commissioners discussed the details of this event, recognizing that other organizations are interested in participating. After much thought, and considering the time, expense, and effort everyone will be putting in, and not knowing if the event will be able to happen due to COVID-19 concerns/restrictions, **a motion was made by Chasson, seconded by Barsness, to cancel Oktoberfest for 2020. Motion carried 5-0.**

Other

- The Devils Lake Climbing Guides have applied for a Commercial Use Permit, planning to offer up to 3 events in Robinson Park

Adjourn

Motion Barsness, second Chasson, to adjourn at 9:20 a.m. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy George, City Administrator