

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, October 9, 2020

This meeting took place via Zoom Video Conference

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

Members absent: Oliver Dykstra

Staff Present: Administrator Kathy George

Other: None

Call to Order

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

Approve Agenda

Motion Barsness, second Sturtz, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion passed 6-0.

Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion Barsness, second Sturtz, to approve the minutes from the August 14, 2020 meeting.

Motion passed 6-0. The Commission did not meet in September.

New Business

Banning State Park Youth Hunt - The annual Banning State Park Youth Hunt is scheduled for October 26th and 27th. Park Manager Clarissa Payne is requesting the City waive ordinances 935.05 (firearms) and 945 (use of firearms) to allow for this event. The hunt takes place on the east side of Kettle River, a portion of which is located within City limits. City Code 935 has been repealed; therefore, only City Code 945 needs to be waived.

Motion Barsness, second Vavricka, to recommend the City Council approve the request to waive City Code 945 for the annual Banning State Park Youth Hunt. Motion passed 6-0.

Continuing Business

Robinson Park

Camping - We had 27 registrations for 33 days of camping in August. In September, we had 23 registrations for 41 days of camping. Staff is looking into on-line registrations options.

Legacy Grant – The Request for Review to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has been submitted. That is all that is needed for the DNR contract. SHPO can take 30 days (or more) to complete their review. The Phase 1(a) project was included, since it involves the same areas.

The grant application for the Cultural Landscape Report was submitted to the MN Historical Society. The MNHS Board met on September 24-25 to review applications. Administrator George reported that she listened in and heard them approve our application. No official notice, yet. Hopefully, soon. 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 took place on Friday, August 14th. Joe Czapiewski and Renee Mattson attended on behalf of the Greater MN Regional Parks & Trails Commission. They stated that they would like to see a specific site plan for the restroom, picnic shelter & concrete shelter plaza, so LHB was hired to put the site plan together, and it has been submitted.

GMRPTC received 14 funding applications for \$9,399,783 in grants for projects totaling \$12,389,302.

The breakdown of requests by district:

District 1 - \$1,919,724 (*Sandstone is in District 1*)

District 2 - \$3,189,142

District 3 - \$836,403

District 4 – \$1,249,282

District 5 - \$839,300

District 6 - \$1,365,932

The 14 applications are fewer than the typical 21-24 applications normally received, and the total dollar amount of requests is lower as well. This was not unexpected given the financial impact the pandemic has had on municipalities across the state and across the country.

Updates will be provided as the Commissioners continue to review and analyze the applications. October 28th is their next Board Meeting.

Lions Hill – The Chalet has been painted – inside and out. Barb Heil will return as Warming House Attendant. She is not available for the days during Christmas break, but has suggested the City hire Tracy Jefferson for those hours. Streets & Parks Supervisor Hiler and Administrator George will interview Tracy.

KREEC Site – Commissioner Chasson provided an update, stating that he and Hiler went out to the property to try and figure out the best way to construct boardwalks in two particular areas. One problem is with driving posts into the ground – both of these areas are boulder gardens. The wetland issue seems to be solveable by working with the County. The old school building was offered for sale (to be moved) on the Public Surplus auction site, but no interest was generated. Administrator George will set up a meeting with Chasson, Hiler, and the City Engineer to review the project and get an estimate/proposal for assistance.

Other

- Commissioner White noted that the skating rink should be prepared now, getting ready for the winter season.
- Commissioner Barsness has not contacted the school yet about partnering with the climbers on climbing clinics, but he will.

- Administrator George will work with the Climbers on extending electricity to the climber's shed.

Adjourn

Motion Barsness, second Vavricka, to adjourn at 8:50 a.m. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy George, City Administrator