

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Friday, December 11, 2020

This meeting took place via Zoom Video Conference

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

Members absent: None

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

Other: None

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:45 a.m. by Chair Dybvig.

Approve Agenda

Motion White, second Barsness, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion passed 7-0.

Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion White, second Barsness, to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2020 meeting. Motion passed 7-0.

New Business

Lions Hill – Memorial Tree Garden - A question has been raised whether or not the City would consider creating a memorial tree garden on the Lions Hill property. The thought is that when someone passes away, people could plant a tree in memory of the person.

Commission Members were generally favorable of the idea. It was suggested that perhaps an area out by the softball field may be more appropriate – better soils and easier access for visitors. This idea will be explored more next spring.

Commissioner Terms – The Parks & Recreation Commission consists of 7 members who serve staggered 3-year terms. The following terms are up at the end of 2020: Tony Vavricka, David Chasson, Eric Sturtz. Vavricka and Chasson have both agreed to serve additional 3-year terms. Sturtz stated that he must decline. Commissioners thanked Sturtz for his service to the City and wished him well.

Motion Barsness, second White, to recommend the City Council appoint Vavricka and Chasson for 3-year terms on the Parks & Rec Commission (2021-2023). Motion passed 7-0. A notice will be placed in the local newspaper for the vacancy left by Sturtz.

Continuing Business

Robinson Park

Camping – There were 7 registrations for 7 days of camping in November. Staff is looking into on-line registration options.

Legacy Grant – The planning phase can begin for the Phase 1 Robinson Park Improvement Project.

The Award Letter was received from the MN Historical Society for the Cultural Landscape Report. This award is for \$80,100 of the \$89,000 project, leaving a local match of \$8,900. The grant agreement has now been executed and funds can be expended from December 1, 2020 through December 1, 2021.

Administrator George spoke with Heidi Bringman from LHB on December 3rd. Bringman would like to hold the Kick Off meeting for the Cultural Landscape Report with the Park Commission at the January 8th regular meeting. She pointed out that a Topo Survey of Robinson Park is needed. This was not included in the RFP for the Phase 1 work and will be an additional expense. Bringman will coordinate this work with a surveyor.

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 congratulation letter was received on the successful funding application. Our grant is the first on the list IF Legacy collections are larger than originally projected. GMRPTC recommendations will go to the Legislature during the upcoming 2021 session for approval.

KREEC Property – SEH Engineer reports that they did a field visit with structural and geotechnical staff last week. They will be working on the report with the goal to have it for the January meeting.

Lions Hill – The warming house has been shut down due to the latest Executive Order issued by Governor Walz. This current shutdown is through December 18th.

S&P Supervisor Hiler reported that work is underway on the bathroom project. He further reported that the liner previously used for the hockey rink will not work for the skating rink. However, he stated that they have been flooding the rink and are getting good ice so far.

New Playground – At the December 16th Council Meeting, the City Council will be considering a Donation Agreement submitted by MCCU for their Commercial Avenue property. It looks like the Panther Park project will become a reality!! Once the donation has been finalized, the New Playground Task Force will start meeting to work out the details. One component of the new playground will be moving the skatepark over and decommissioning Angle Park. S&P Supervisor Hiler would like to move the building/old warming house on the Angle Park property to the John Wright Building property and use it for cold storage. The fence at Angle Park will also have to be removed; perhaps it can be repurposed or sold in the future – once the skatepark has been properly relocated.

Other

- Commissioners mentioned that the new Christmas decorations through the downtown area look great. They also noted that the new banners are also wonderful.

- There was discussion about whether or not Santa would be visiting Sandstone this year.

Adjourn

Motion White, second Dykstra, to adjourn at 9:10 a.m. Motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy George, City Administrator