

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Friday, January 8, 2021**

This meeting took place via Zoom Video Conference

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

Members absent: Oliver Dykstra

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

Other: Mayor Pete Spartz; Council Liaison Val Palmer; SEH Engineer Greg Anderson;
LHB Team: Heidi Bringman, Mike Fischer, Rachel Johnson, Mike Lovato, Jeremy Nienow, Carlene Roise, Rachel Peterson

Call to Order

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

Approve Agenda

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

Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion White, second Barsness, to approve the minutes from the December 11, 2020 meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

New Business

Commission Vacancy – Due to the resignation of Eric Sturtz, a Notice was placed in the *Pine County Courier* stating that applications are being received to fill the vacancy on the Park Commission. One Application was received from John Gaede. **Motion Barsness, second White to recommend the City Council appoint John Gaede to fill the vacant 3-year term on the Park Commission. Motion passed 5-0.**

Greg Anderson: KREEC Report – The Commission had previously accepted the proposal from Greg Anderson/SEH to provide engineering services related to boardwalk improvements at the KREEC property. Anderson presented his report. Five areas were reviewed as follows:

Crossing 1: This area is 88 linear feet and designated as a Type 7 wetland; however, Anderson stated that it may not actually be a wetland. The area is muddy, but only in the wheel ruts. There is good overland slope and drainage and he feels that grading and aggregate surfacing would be suitable. Although a boardwalk or puncheon could be constructed.

Crossing 2: This area is 62 linear feet and designated a Type 2/7 wetland. This is a wet area in need of some type of structure. Anderson recommends using treated timber puncheons for this area (rather than a boardwalk), which are placed just above the ground on timber transverse sills on crushed aggregate pads. A railing is not required. A 100-

foot long puncheon structure that is 6-foot wide with capacity to carry pedestrians and ATVs would be about \$10,000. There was a question about ATVs, since the park has been designated non-motorized. Anderson stated that the trail could be narrower, if desired.

Crossing 3: This area is 140 linear feet and designated a Type 6 wetland. This is a boulder area, being referred to as the “Rock Garden”. Anderson recommends using the puncheons for this area as well. Puncheons do not require special or large equipment and are simple to build in the field. Commissioner White suggested perhaps FCI could construct them. Because of the rocks, additional coarse crushed rock would be needed. The cost for an approximately 135-foot structure would be about \$16,200.

Crossing 4: This area is 50 linear feet on the west side of the existing bridge and is designated a Type 2 wetland, shoreland, and 100-year floodplain. A 25-foot span would be needed to access the existing bridge.

Crossing 5: This area is 16 linear feet on the east side of the existing bridge and is possibly a Type 2 wetland. It is also in the shoreland and the 100-year floodplain. Two spans totaling 45 feet would be needed to access the existing bridge.

The approach spans would use treated timber or light steel stringers supported on treated timber rock filled crib abutments and piers. A railing is needed due to the height above ground. The approach spans would be 6’ wide; however, the bridge is 10’ wide. The estimated cost of the approach spans is \$35,000.

Existing Bridge: This bridge spans the Skunk Creek and is a treated timber structure 30-feet 5-inches long by 10 feet wide. It is about 10 years old and is in good condition. The bridge is about 5 feet above the ground elevation and needs approach spans to access it. Crossings 4 and 5 would serve as the approach spans.

Wetlands: Anderson met with Pine County staff regarding potential wetland impacts. If the puncheons are placed directly on the ground, they are considered a wetland impact and they will require maintenance more often as the timber will deteriorate over time. If placed on a rock ballast open pad, the life will be extended. Construction of the bridge approach spans will be considered a wetland impact and permitting will be required. It is likely that all of the crossings/approach spans will be considered one project and, therefore, will require permitting. County staff expressed support for the project and a willingness to help with the permitting process.

Next Steps: Commissioner Chasson, who has taken the lead on this project, suggested that a smaller contingent meet to further review and discuss options, as well as the overall plan to address the building on the property and parking. He will coordinate with Administrator George, S&P Supervisor Hiler, Pine County staff, and Anderson and report back to the Park Commission.

Cultural Landscape Report: Kick-Off Meeting - The Commission has enlisted the services of LHB to work on the Cultural Landscape Report, which is required for the Phase 1 Robinson Park Legacy Grant Project. Heidi Bringman and her team were present to kick-off the

project. After introductions, Bringman explained that the CLR is needed to establish preservation goals and to provide recommendations on needed improvements and long-term management of the historic quarry site. The CLR must follow guidelines established by the National Park Service and the Minnesota Historical Society. Bringman reviewed the overall work plan summary and timeline; covering project initiation, site research & historical documentation, site investigation & assessment, analysis & evaluation, treatment recommendations & conceptual approaches, report documentation, meetings/communication.

Bringman then asked Commissioners to state their goals for the project. Comments were provided as follows:

- A walking path for access to Robinson Park
- Incorporate/address the dam remnants
- Provide more access to the river
- Be aware of the 100-year floodplain
- Showcase and preserve historical elements

Bringman shared the goals established by the LHB team as well. Commissioners Barsness and Vavricka offered to provide guide service to team members as they start visiting the park and getting to know the artifacts. Commissioners shared resources regarding the history of the park.

Bringman and Administrator George plan to attend a meeting on February 3rd with MN Historical Society staff. It is possible that the planning process for the Legacy Grant project could begin after the 75% CLR report has been submitted to the State for comments.

Continuing Business

Robinson Park

Camping – There were 4 registrations for 4 days of camping in December. Total for the year was 183 registrations for 275 days of camping. Staff is *still* looking into on-line registration options.

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).

The City received a congratulation letter on our 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.

Lions Hill – The warming house is open with some restrictions:

- No food or drink will be offered
- Only one household group allowed in at a time
- Masks must be worn inside

S&P Supervisor Hiler reported that most of the structural work has been done on the bathroom project. Exterior painting will occur in the summer. The plumbers are at the building today and Hiler plans to check in on them after the meeting. Hiler also reported that the crew has been flooding the rink and, hopefully, a nice base is forming.

New Playground – At the December 16th Council Meeting, the City Council approved the Donation Agreement submitted by MCCU for their Commercial Avenue property. Staff is working towards closing on the transaction. Once the City has acquired the property, the New Playground Task Force will start meeting to plan the park features and to raise funds.

Other

- Commissioner Barsness reported that the climbers are working with the School District to put on an ice climbing clinic. Barsness would like to see a Sandstone Chapter of the Minnesota Climbers Association formed. He also reported that the MCA is planning a February event.

Adjourn

Motion Chasson, second White, to adjourn at 10:00 a.m. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy George, City Administrator