

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Friday, May 14, 2021

This meeting took place via Zoom Video Conference

Members present: Dorothy Dybvig, David Chasson, Dave Barsness, Oliver Dykstra, John Gaede, Tony Vavricka

Members absent: Karry White

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

Other: Heidi Bringman, Rachel Hanson

Call to Order

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

Approve Agenda

Motion Dykstra, second Chasson, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion passed 6-0.

Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion Barsness, second Gaede, to approve the minutes from the April 9, 2021 meeting.

Motion passed 6-0.

New Business

Robinson Park Project Updates – Heidi Bringman with LHB provided an update on the Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) and the Phase 1 Legacy Grant Project planning process. Bringman reported that the archaeology field work for the CLR has been completed, which included a pedestrian survey, shovel testing, metal detecting, with over 50 significant features identified. A draft report of these findings was submitted to LHB for the CLR. The consultant is also submitting a site form to the Office of the State Archaeologists (OSA) to get the archaeological features a site number. The shape file for these features will be incorporated into the Topo Survey for the Phase 1 planning process. Bringman will forward the draft archaeology report to Administrator George to share with the Park & Rec Commissioners.

The CLR process revealed the need for a Phase 1 Archaeology Study and geophysical investigation (GPR) work, which are underway. These consultants would like to be involved in some way as design moves forward to try and avoid as many of the 50 significant features as possible.

Bringman reviewed the Table of Contents and general format for the CLR report. The Minnesota Historical Society grant indicated that a 75% report would be submitted by May 13th, with the final report due June 10th. Bringman will contact MNHS to extend these deadlines, stating that some of the work is seasonal and, therefore, was delayed by the winter months.

Discussion turned to the Phase 1 Legacy Grant Project design process. Park Commissioners would like to be involved in this process. Bringman stated that a review of the Master Plan, a listening session, and a design charrette process could be scheduled to receive input from

Commissioners. This meeting could take place likely in July. Commissioners expressed a desire to hold the meeting at Robinson Park. Bringman will send around available dates/times so that a date that works for most can be chosen.

Administrator George asked for thoughts on the idea of renaming Robinson Park to Robinson Quarry Park. This would distinguish the park from Pine City's Robinson Park and would also highlight the quarry artifacts. Commissioners had positive reactions to the idea, but would like some research on how the park came to be named Robinson Park.

Panther Park Logo – Eric Sturtz provided 4 drafts to consider for a new Panther Park logo. A contest was run in the *Pine County Courier* with participants directed to the City's Facebook page. This logo had the highest votes, with 56:



The other logos had 22, 15 and 6 votes. **Motion Dykstra, second Vavricka to approve the Panther Park Logo that received the most votes. Motion passed 6-0.**

Continuing Business/Updates

2021 Events – The Commission discussed the following events for 2021:

- Park Clean Up – took place April 23rd and 24th. The weather did not cooperate, with it being cold, windy and rainy. However, some groups came out earlier during the week (PHASE). About a dozen climbers showed up Saturday at Robinson Park, along with the Gaede family and Commissioners Chasson and Barsness. Rolls, pizza, and water were provided. Barsness reported that quite a bit of brush clearing was done, with more being planned for the fall clean up day.
- Arts in the Park- The schedule was included in the City newsletter and an ad will appear in the local newspaper starting next week.
- National Night Out - August 3: Administrator George is contacting speakers to get things set up.
- Quarry Days - August 13-14: Commissioner Barsness noted that the Minnesota Climbers Association members might want to have a booth to promote their club. S&P Supervisor

Hiler questioned if there is a concern with the parade route interfering with the MN DOT TH123 project that is planned to begin this summer. Administrator George will follow up with MN DOT.

- Robinson Park Fall Clean Up: This is typically held in September/October. Commissioner Barsness will coordinate with the climbers.
- Oktoberfest - October 2: Commissioner White will touch base with her contact to see when they would like to start the planning process.

Robinson Park

Camping – There were 11 registrations for 15 days of camping in April. Deputy Clerk Tyson will provide a report for the June meeting on her findings regarding on-line registration systems.

KREEC Site Update – The building has been demolished. The Minnesota Land Trust is not interested in acquiring the parcels on the west side of Old Military Road. Commissioners discussed whether to offer the entire property for consideration. Commissioner Chasson stated that if property is placed in the Land Trust, ownership doesn't change, but restrictions are placed on the use of the property. Consensus of the Commission was to ask the Minnesota Land Trust to consider the entire KREEC property. Administrator George will follow up and report back.

Commissioners Chasson, Barsness, and Administrator George met with Clarissa Payne from Banning State Park and a DNR representative on April 20th at the Big Spring Falls parking area to talk about extending a trail from Old Military Road to Pine Avenue. About 600 feet would go through DNR property. The group ended up walking through the property as well. It was noted that the DNR property is owned by the Land Management department; so, the DNR representative is going to check into whether or not a trail could be designated through the property. There is already a trail, essentially, so no additional cutting would be needed. The DNR representatives present indicated support for non-motorized uses.

Commissioner Chasson reported that Pine County Land & Resource Manager Caleb Anderson and his crew were out again to look at the proposed trail. Anderson thought there should be no problem with boardwalks over section 1 and 2; however, the boulder garden and the creek crossing areas are more extensive.

PHASE Adirondack Chair

S&P Supervisor Craig Hiler picked up the chair. Consensus of the Commissioners is to place the chair near the Kiosk in Train Park, facing the street. The finished look of the chair is burnt barnwood that has been sealed. Rather than painting the entire chair, Commissioners thought it would be nice to have local artist Carol Bersin paint the City logo on the inside "back rest" portion of the chair.

Other

Commissioner Barsness reported that Paddlefest weekend was a success, with about 25 tents scattered throughout Robinson Park and license plates from all over the United States,

including Washington, Oregon, Iowa, Wisconsin, North Dakota, Virginia, Texas, Pennsylvania. There was lots of activity taking place. When he checked on Sunday, there was no trash anywhere in the park. He commended Commissioner Vavricka for a successful event.

Mayor Spartz has issued a Mayor's Challenge to help raise funds for Panther Park. He will match individual donations received up to about \$5,000. He has set up an account at Members Co-Operative Credit Union.

S&P Supervisor Hiler asked about the bushes in Train Park that border the railroad tracks. He said that they have been badly neglected and are overrun. They were lilac bushes, but the lilacs have not been blooming and the bushes need to be cut back so that new growth can emerge. Commissioners were supportive of cutting them back to encourage new growth.

Adjourn

Motion Chasson, second Barsness, to adjourn at 9:50 a.m. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy George, City Administrator