

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Friday, June 11, 2021

This meeting took place in-person and via Zoom Video Conference

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

Members absent: Oliver Dykstra

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

Other: Council Liaison Val Palmer

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 6-0.

Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion Chasson, second White, to approve the minutes from the May 14, 2021 meeting.

Motion passed 6-0.

New Business

Adirondack Chair – At the May meeting, Commissioners thought it would be nice to have local artist Carole Bersin paint the City logo on the chair, which will be placed in Train Park. Bersin provided a graphic of the logo painted on the chair for the Commission’s review and discussion. Commissioners expressed their desire to have SANDSTONE placed so that it will show up when people take pictures.

After a recess in the meeting, Commissioners Dybvig, White, Barsness, and Gaede, along with George and Hiler, went to the John Wright Building to look at the chair. Consensus was to shrink the logo so that it appears in the upper portion of the chair. They also decided to add TRAIN PARK on the lower rung of the chair. S&P Commissioner Hiler plans to seal the chair when the painting is finished. He will then create a base of sandstone for the chair to be placed on in Train Park.

Continuing Business/Updates

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

- Arts in the Park- Two events have taken place so far. The Legion has been selling food. The Dairy Association is selling ice cream. The Quarry Lions are selling baked goods. The Sandstone Friends of the Library are selling books, bags, t-shirts. Old School Arts Center is offering art projects. Things are going well. Commissioners decided to move the event back to the gazebo where there is more shade.
- National Night Out - August 3: Administrator George is contacting speakers to get things set up. Melissa Springer will emcee the event, doing some stand-up comedy. Rob McGown will

be asked to provide music. Service organizations have been asked to speak and/or provide information booths. A good response is coming in.

The Commission noted that August 3rd is the first day of the Pine County Fair. However, they felt there would not be a conflict and they would rather proceed with that date.

- Quarry Days - August 13-14: Commissioners would like to have an info booth Friday night and Saturday. George will put a schedule together and send it out so people can sign up for the time they want.
- Robinson Park Fall Clean Up: This is typically held in September/October. Commissioner Barsness will coordinate with the climbers.
- Oktoberfest - October 2: Commissioner White reported that the Bavarian Musikmeisters are on board, with the same terms and conditions that were being planned for last year. Commissioners Chasson and Dybvig volunteered to work with George on the details.

Robinson Park

Camping – There were 14 registrations for 23 days of camping in May. Deputy Clerk Tyson will provide a report for the July meeting on her findings regarding on-line registration systems.

2nd Legacy Grant Application – The Greater MN Regional Parks & Trails Commission is still anticipating that they will be able to fund this project. They are waiting for the Legislature to pass the bonding bill.

Potential Name Change – The Commission talked about the possibility of adding “Quarry” to Robinson Park: Robinson Quarry Park. Commissioner Gaede provided information about the history of the Robinson Park name, which was in honor of Percy Robinson who served on the Council from 1933 through 1951, and as Mayor from 1958 until his death in 1960. He worked for many years to have a park established at the old quarry site.

KREEC Site Update

- Bill Penning with the MN Land Trust has been asked to consider putting the entire 125 acres of property into the MN Land Trust. We are waiting to hear back from him.
- No updates have been received regarding the Skunk Creek Trail running through DNR property – this may take a while.
- Pine County Environmental Technician Jeremy Williamson has determined that the de minimis (allowable wetland impact) of the property is 10,000 square feet. Creek crossings 1 and 2 would impact approximately 30 square feet and qualifies for a wetland exemption and no-loss determination.
 - Commissioner Chasson suggested holding off for now on installing the two crossings due to the current drought and also due to the high cost of lumber. He has 6x6 posts that can be used and anticipates the rest of the materials will cost less than \$1,000.
- S&P Supervisor Hiler will get measurements of the bridge so that his crew can make the ramps.
- Commissioner Chasson plans to use the City’s mower/trimmer next week to clear the trails.

- Artist Carole Bersin will be asked if she is interested in designing and painting signage to designate the Skunk Creek Trail, Non-Motorized Use Only, and add a “friendly” picture of a skunk.

Panther Park

- MN Amateur Sports Commission – Skatepark Grant – application deadline has been extended to July 1 because the Legislature hasn’t adopted a language clarification they are waiting for. The original bill was intended to fund the construction and design of skate parks, but the original language only included design in the body of the text.
- DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant – Playground, Basketball Court, Restroom, etc. – grant awards are to be announced in the summer of 2021. Haven’t heard anything yet.

Mary Thorvig Memorial Tree Garden

- Survey is available for the Eagle Field property
- The Park Commission recessed the meeting and reconvened at Eagle Field to discuss location and details
 - Commissioner White shared information she received from Happy Lands Tree Farm about types of trees and placement, etc.
 - It was determined to start the Tree Garden on the east side of the property (between the driveway and the property line).
 - A metal arch would be nice with MARY THORVIG MEMORIAL TREE GARDEN. FCI will be asked if their metal works department can build the arch.
 - Administrator George will work on a draft policy to present and discuss at the July meeting.
- The Thorvig family would like to be involved in any way possible – FYI.

Other

Special Event Permits were issued:

- Rapids Riders for Canoe-U at Robinson Park June 15-16, June 22-23, and July 17-18
- All School Reunion August 14 at Panther Park

Adjourn

The Park Commission recessed at 9:10 to go to the John Wright Building to look at the Adirondack Chair and to go to Eagle Field to talk about the Memorial Tree Garden. All but Vavricka and Chasson continued to these locations.

Motion Barsness, second Gaede, to adjourn at 10:00 a.m. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy George, City Administrator