

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Friday, August 12, 2021

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

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

Members absent: Oliver Dykstra, David Chasson, John Gaede

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

Other: Tammy Burch

Call to Order

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

Approve Agenda

Motion Barsness, second White, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion passed 4-0.

Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion Barsness, second Dybvig, to approve the minutes from the July 9, 2021 meeting.

Motion passed 4-0.

New Business

Tammy Burch – Little Library – Tammy Burch attended the meeting to ask if the Park Commission would be supportive of the Women’s Auxiliary of the Legion putting up a Little Library station in Train Park, perhaps under the pavilion. It would be a permanent structure, approximately 2 feet x 3 feet, about 3-4 feet off the ground so that kids could reach in and grab books or put some books inside. There’s one in Finlayson, two in Hinckley, and one by Pine Lake.

Commissioners asked who would build and maintain the Little Library. Burch stated that the Auxiliary would take care of that, they just need a place to put it. Discussion turned to winter access. Train Park is basically plowed in for the winter. It was suggested that perhaps the Little Library could be placed on the City’s property in front of the Post Office, by the bench towards the sidewalk that runs along Main Avenue. S&P Supervisor Hiler stated that would be fine with him and his crew.

Motion Barsness, second White, to recommend the City Council approve the placement of a Little Library on the right-of-way property located in front of the Post Office, near the sidewalk that runs along Main Avenue, with the Women’s Auxiliary of the Legion responsible for building and maintaining the Little Library. Motion passed 4-0.

Continuing Business/Updates

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

- National Night Out - August 3: Administrator George reported that the event was a huge success, with 21 organizations present and over 300 people in attendance.

- Quarry Days - August 13-14: Commissioners signed up to work the booth Friday and Saturday, but some time slots have opened up: Friday from 3:00 – 4:00 and Saturday from 9:00 – 1:00. Either White or George will fill the Friday opening. No one volunteered for any of the open Saturday hours. George has rented a tent. Commissioner Dybvig provided a large glass jar to use for accepting donations. A fundraising meter / visual has been created. Pictures of the Panther Park project and the Robinson Park Legacy Grant project will be displayed. Commissioner White provided three easels that can be used. George will provide a cooler filled with water for the booth workers. She will also be presenting the Panther Park plans to the All-Class Reunion at 1:00, along with Mayor Spartz, at Panther Park on August 14th. Free movie tickets were provided by Tim Davis that will be given away to anyone who makes a donation.
- Robinson Park Fall Clean Up: Commissioner Barsness has contacted the climbers about scheduling this in October. Commissioner Vavricka mentioned that the climbers are planning a Fall Festival, he will verify the date. Barsness will also reach out to the school to see if anyone is available/interested.
- Oktoberfest - October 2: The car show has been nixed because both Cheri Holm & Matt Gebhart are committed to weddings that weekend. Holm will contact craft vendors. The Legion may sell popcorn. The Lions will sell beer and brats. The Garden Club may sell caramel apples. A planning meeting has been scheduled for August 17th at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Robinson Park

Camping – There were 20 registrations for 31 days of camping in July. Commissioner Vavricka offered to work with Deputy Clerk Tyson in setting up the on-line reservation system. Administrator George suggested that the on-line system kicks off this winter to work out any kinks so that it is ready for next year’s camping season.

2nd Legacy Grant Application – The grant from the Greater MN Regional Parks & Trails Commission has been awarded. George is working on the required DNR documents. No costs can be incurred before a start date is determined by the DNR.

Panther Park

- MN Amateur Sports Commission – Skatepark Grant – The committee will meet tomorrow (August 12th) and, hopefully, will provide a timeline for their process after that meeting.

Mary Thorvig Memorial Tree Garden

- The full survey of Eagle Field was conducted on July 15th. George is still waiting for the actual survey document. They did mark the corners of both lots, so clearing of the area east of the driveway can start any time the Street Crew can fit it in.
- George met with Jeff from FCI regarding the entry-way arch – he will put together some concepts for consideration
- George will work on a DRAFT policy for the Tree Garden.

Adirondack Chair

- Carole Bersin has finished painting the logo on the chair and the Street Crew installed it in Train Park yesterday (August 11th).

KREEC Property – Skunk Creek Trail

After the July Park Commission meeting, Bill Penning of the MN Land Trust notified Commissioner Chasson that the Land Trust can't use their grant funds to pay for easements for property that is already publicly owned. More discussion will occur on this topic at the September meeting.

Other

The planning charrette for the Robinson Park Legacy Grant project is coming up on Thursday, August 19th, from 2:00 – 5:30 in Robinson Park.

Adjourn

Motion White, second Vavricka, to adjourn at 8:50 a.m. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy George, City Administrator