

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Friday, October 15, 2021

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

Members absent: Karry White, Oliver Dykstra; Council Liaison Val Palmer

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

Other: Heidi Bringman and Rachel Johnson with LHB

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 Barsness, second Chasson, to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2021 meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

New Business

Heidi Bringman – Robinson Park Projects - Update – LHB Engineer Heidi Bringman attended the meeting via Zoom to discuss the Robinson Park projects. She reviewed the notes from the planning charrette that was held on August 19th. She also reviewed three potential layout plans for the Phase 1 project – Master Plan Modified, Looped, and Split. She went through each plan in detail and discussed the various elements. Commissioners preferred a combination of the Looped and Split plans, and extending vehicle access to the northern portage, along with providing turn around space for a vehicle and trailer. About 5 to 6 campsites would be created. Improved access to the river is a priority for Commissioners. Bringman is talking with the DNR about the access points. Commissioners also favor providing a boardwalk access to the former dam site. It was noted that any design features should be able to withstand flooding. Bringman stated that the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will have to approve the plans and will likely make comments regarding how the project affects historic artifacts. Bringman stated that bi-weekly Zoom meetings will be set up to continue working on the park design. The first meeting will be November 2nd at 10:00 a.m. All who are interested/able are invited to attend.

Bringman will also provide an Agreement for Professional Services for the Phase 1(a) Robinson Park Project, now that the grant contract has been signed by the State.

Bringman reported on the progress of the Cultural Landscape Report. The 50% draft has been reviewed by consultants and Administrator George. With the discussion at today's meeting, they will be able to work on the final chapter – Treatment Recommendations. The report is to be completed by the end of December.

Commissioners reviewed the funding plan for the three projects – Phase 1, Phase 1(a) and the Cultural Landscape Report. If all goes according to plan, there will be a surplus of \$6,520.44 of Park Funds that have been set aside for these projects.

Continuing Business/Updates

Panther Park – Updates were provided about the Panther Park Project:

- Skatepark: The MN Amateur Sports Commission grant documents have now been signed.
- Basketball Court: The Sandstone EDA agreed to contribute \$50,000 with an emphasis on the basketball court.
- An engineer has been contacted to work with the City on preparing the property for the park – excavation, grading, concrete placement, etc.
- An architect has been contacted to work with the City on the building plans for the bathroom (as required for the DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant application).
- The Quarry Lions are eligible to apply for a grant from Lions International for \$54,760.55. They plan to apply for the grant in support of Panther Park.
- The Park Commission has an available fund balance of \$39,000 through 2020. They were asked to consider earmarking \$30,000 towards Panther Park. **Motion Vavricka, second Gaede, to recommend \$30,000 of the Park Fund be earmarked for the Panther Park project. Motion passed 5-0.**
- It is anticipated that the application for the DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant will be due March 31, 2022 with application materials becoming available in December.
- With funds committed and/or expected, there is about \$74,000 that is needed in order to have the matching funds in hand for the DNR grant. A capital fundraising campaign will be launched throughout the community to raise these funds.

Robinson Park

Camping – There were 21 registrations for 24 days of camping in September.

Stream Restoration Support Letter – In 2019, a meeting was held with DNR officials about the concerns with the dam remnants left in the Kettle River. The result of that meeting was for the City to send a letter to the River Ecology Unit asking for the Kettle River to be placed on the Stream Restoration List. We received a response that they DNR would keep the letter on file. They had been out to the site but were unable to get surveying done as of July 24, 2019. They said they would work on getting data needed to put together a cost estimate and they would be in touch when they got closer to their Request for Projects in January/February (presumably, 2020). The City hasn't heard anything since.

A follow up e-mail was sent to Amanda Hillman, Restoration Coordinator. She said that DNR-Fisheries didn't see this site as a top priority a couple of years back. She stated that "it seems like a natural pinch point and that the site floods out to allow for fish passage." She would see what the technical experts say. And she asked for photos. Administrator George responded by asking what type of photos does she want and also reiterating that the City's concern is with the remnants from the dam that pose a safety concern – not fish passage. George asked if fish passage was the main goal of the Stream Restoration process. A response to these questions hasn't been received yet.

Mary Thorvig Memorial Tree Garden

- Feedback from the September meeting on the arch design was shared with John Bishop at FCI.

National Night Out – Recap

National Night Out – 2021

Train Park – Sandstone, MN

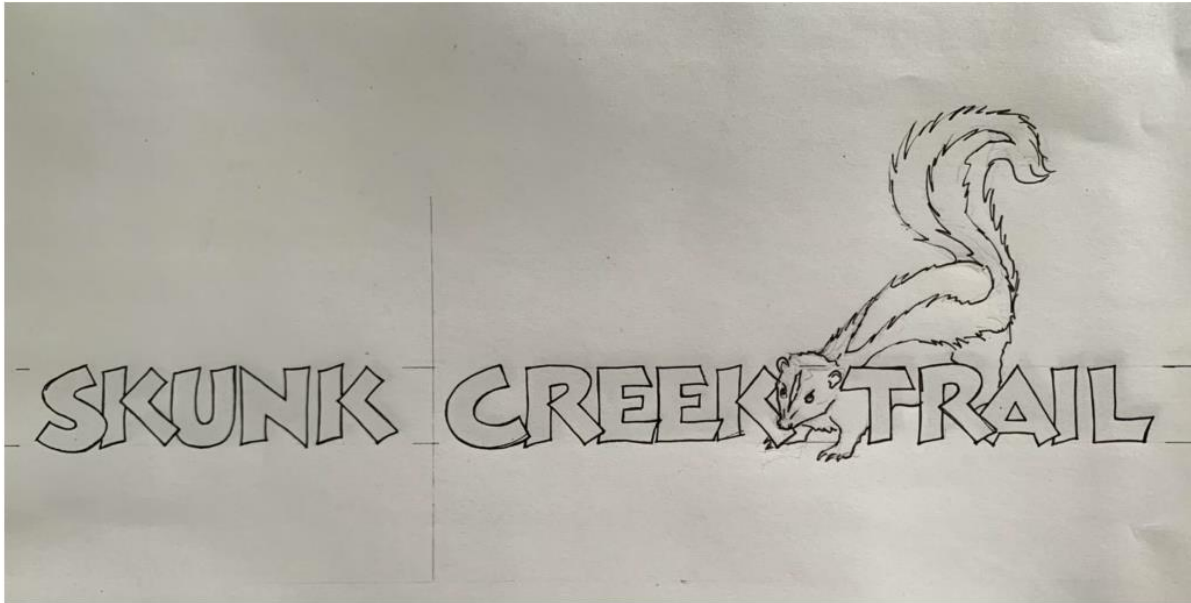
Recap

Music – Rob McGown	\$ 250.00
Emcee – Melissa Springer	\$ 250.00 Melissa declined
Chris' Food Center – cakes	\$ 109.98
Chris' Food Center – groceries	\$ 534.72
Casey's General Store – ice	\$ 16.56
Grand Cinema Entertainment – Bouncy House	\$ 325.00
American Legion Post 151 – cooking/serving	\$ 300.00
Quarry Lions – serving cake	\$ 100.00
Paul's Portables – toilets	\$ 150.00
Advertising – Every Door Direct	<u>\$ 535.09</u>
Donation – North Pine Riders Snowmobile Club	(1,000.00)
TOTAL	\$1,321.35

21 organizations had tables/booths at the event

KREEC Property – Skunk Creek Trail

A sketch of a Skunk with the words Skunk Creek Trail was submitted by Carole Bersin for review, comments, suggestions. Commissioners liked the sketch and suggested that any additional messaging (i.e., park hours, non-motorized use only, etc.) be hung below on a separate panel.



Other

Electricity for the climbing wall was discussed. Commissioners Vavricka and Chasson would like to lead a fundraising effort. Administrator George will work with them on the details.

October 30th has been set for the fall work day at Robinson Park. Commissioner Barsness and S&P Supervisor Hiler are working together on the details. Pizza and refreshments will be provided. Commissioner Gaede will notify the High School to see if any students want to participate.

Adjourn

Motion Vavricka, second Chasson, to adjourn at 10:40 a.m. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy George, City Administrator