

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Friday, April 12, 2024

Members present: Dorothy Dybvig, John Gaede, Tony Vavricka, Todd Sandell, Elsie Laursen, Council Liaison Val Palmer

Members absent: Karry White, Dave Barsness

Staff Present: Administrator Kathy George

Other: None

Call to Order

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

Approve Agenda

The Agenda was approved as presented.

Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion Gaede, second Sandell, to approve the minutes from the February 9, 2024

meeting. Motion passed 4-0. The Commission did not meet in March. Elsie Laursen left the meeting.

New Business

MN Climbers Association: WiFi Request

Steve McCluskey, MCA Board Member, is communicating with Councilor Palmer regarding the addition of WiFi in the park and at the Climber's Shed. Perhaps this can be included in the Legacy Grants. Administrator George will research options and costs and bring information back to the Commission.

Contract for Services: Sandstone Flower & Garden Club

Each year, the City has been entering into a Service Agreement with the Sandstone Flower & Garden Club for \$500. This amount is included in the Park Fund budget. In return for these funds, the Sandstone Flower & Garden Club takes care of the gardens in front of the Post Office, the Evangelical Free Church, the Veteran's Memorial garden, and they plant and place the flower barrels throughout the downtown area.

Motion Vavricka, second Sandell to recommend the City Council approve the 2024 Service Contract with the Sandstone Flower & Garden Club for \$500. Motion passed 4-0.

Contract for Services: 210 Gallery & Arts Center

Each year, the City has been entering into a Service Agreement with the 210 Gallery and Arts Center (formerly, Old School Arts Center) for \$1,000. This amount is included in the Park Fund budget. In return for these funds, the Art Center provides a venue for artists, including performing artists, space for meetings and social gatherings, art classes and presentations.

Motion Vavricka, second Sandell to recommend the City Council approve the 2024 Service Contract with 210 Gallery & Arts Center for \$1,000. Motion passed 4-0.

Donation Application Form: David Brown

The City received a Donation Application from David Brown. He has constructed two children's picnic tables for Panther Park, painted purple. **Motion Dybvig, second Vavricka to accept the donation of two children's picnic tables for Panther Park from David Brown. Motion passed 4-0.**

Continuing Business/Updates

Annual Events

- Spring Park Clean Up – April 27th
 - Commissioner Gaede made a flyer – which will run in the 4/12 and 4/18 editions of the *North Pine County News* and the *Evergreen*
 - The event is included in the Spring newsletter
 - CSP Sirena Samuelson has shared the info through the Neighborhood Watch program
 - Donuts, pizza, and water will be provided for participants
- Arts in the Park – Tuesdays in June
 - Commissioner Vavricka will line up the musicians – three have been secured, he is waiting for a fourth to get back to him
 - American Legion Auxiliary, Dairy Association, Quarry Lions, Friends of the Library, 210 Gallery & Art Center – all have been invited to participate
- Quarry Days – August 9-10
 - Commissioner White agreed to host a booth on Saturday to promote the City Parks
 - Commissioner Barsness will help as well
- Mary Thorvig Memorial Tree Garden “planting” ceremony – August 11
 - Commissioner White will help with this event
 - A picnic lunch will be provided – the American Legion Auxiliary or the TreeHouse will be asked to prepare and serve the meal
- Robinson Quarry Park Clean Up – typically September or October
 - Commissioner Barsness will coordinate
- Oktoberfest – October 5th
 - the Chmielewski Funtime Band has been booked
- Quarry City Christmas – November 30

Various Updates

Robinson Quarry Park

Camping Data – There were 4 registrations for 9 days of camping in February; and 6 registrations for 7 days of camping in March.

Unstable Rock Section – *will be investigated this spring/summer*

Legacy Grant Projects

Phase 1 & 1(a) Project

The pavilion pieces have been moved to the Public Works Garage for storage over the winter. The project engineer and Forever Redwood are still communicating about the drawings and additional materials needed (an additional cost of \$10,960).

The toilet company, Boom Concrete, is planning to deliver the unit “in a couple of weeks”. They are coordinating with Forest Lake Contracting.

Paving the road and walking trail, concrete for the pavilion & plaza area, installation of the pavilion and vault toilet will all occur this summer.

Phase 2

- July is the earliest grant work can be done (expenses incurred), assuming all the pre-grant contract requirements are met (George is working on these – still waiting for a response from the Natural Heritage Information Systems NHIS).
- A meeting will be held with the climbers on site Saturday, April 27th. Heidi Bringman (LHB) plans to attend. Commissioners are welcome.
- Additional survey data is needed within the Kettle River to ensure accurate design of the public access areas.
- The location of the stone wall with the stacked stones on either side of the road leading to the northern portage are being discussed (they are both very close to the road, leaving no room to accommodate a proper road).
- The stage location at the climbing wall needs to be firmed up.
- More survey work is needed for the new campsite area, too.

Minnesota Energy Resources, in partnership with Wisconsin Public Service Foundation, has donated \$5,000 towards the Climbers Kiosk.

Phase 3

The deadline to apply for the next round of Legacy Grant funds is July 1, 2024.

Commissioners were in favor of creating camper cabins in the Upper Robinson area, along with parking, a connecting trail, restrooms, overlook and picnic shelter. The Master Plan for Robinson Park does include these improvements for Upper Robinson.

Other

Special Event Permit: East Central Class of 2014

Commissioners were informed that the City Council approved a permit for the East Central Class of 2014 to hold a reunion in Panther Park on July 27th and to allow attendees to bring their own alcoholic beverages.

Administrator George shared a design of a suncatcher from D'ears and asked for ideas to have a similar suncatcher created of the Train Bridge in Robinson Quarry Park. Commissioners will bring ideas to the next meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy George, City Administrator