

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Friday, May 10, 2024

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

Members absent: Dave Barsness

Staff Present: Administrator Kathy George

Other: None

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by Chair Dybvig.

Approve Agenda

Motion White, second Gaede to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion passed 6-0.

Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion White, second Laursen, to approve the minutes from the April 12, 2024 meeting. Motion passed 6-0.

New Business - None

Continuing Business/Updates

Annual Events

- Spring Park Clean Up – April 27th
 - Good turnout
 - New Leos Group in town
 - Climbers in Robinson Quarry Park

- Arts in the Park – Tuesdays in June
 - Commissioner Vavricka has lined up the musicians
 - American Legion Auxiliary, Dairy Association, Quarry Lions, Friends of the Library, 210 Gallery & Art Center – all plan to participate
 - Legion & Vets Memorial folks will provide FREE meals to veterans on June 4th
 - Everyone’s Table will provide FREE food for all on June 19th

- 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
 - Picnic lunch provided – *see if the Am Legion Auxiliary would like to prepare/serve – or TreeHouse*
 - Commissioner White will help with this event; she noted that the trail through the garden is not easily accessible for elderly people and people with

disabilities. Options will be considered and brought back to the Commission for review and discussion.

- 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 12 registrations for 17 days of camping in April.

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

Legacy Grant Projects

Phase 1 & 1(a) Project

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).

Boom Concrete installed the vault toilet April 29-30. Forest Lake Contracting will pour the concrete walkway, as well as other concrete work this week.

On the plans it doesn't show concrete on the sides or the back of the bathroom building. We (Forest Lake Contracting) can certainly add it, but it will be an extra.

(LHB – Heidi): To keep the cost and footprint down, I suggest 3' wide concrete on the sides, and then 4' or 5' width off the back.

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

Commissioner Vavricka reported that it would be helpful to clear some of the trees and brush on the shore area of the old dam site to make the pathway from the river to the park more accessible.

Phase 2 Project

- 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 – response from the Natural Heritage Information Systems NHIS was received).
- Heidi Bringman (LHB) is reviewing the NHIS response and working on the DNR permit.
 - *(Heidi): I have a call into Molly to get more details on the Butternut tree species (the letter says we'll need a surveyor to confirm), and how to facilitate a survey for the mussels in Kettle River (we went through this with Phase 1 too). These items will need to be coordinated once we get going on Phase 2 final design (later this summer/fall).*
 - *Regarding the General DNR Waters permit, I learned that Nayere took another position within the DNR, so she is no longer our area hydrologist. Good for her, but sad for us! They haven't assigned a new person yet to replace her yet, but I need to reach out and contact her old supervisor to get better direction on things. Originally, I was thinking (hoping) we could just amend our existing permit but I think enough time has passed and the scope has changed slightly to include the dam area too, so I think it is safe to assume that we'll need to apply for a new MPARS permit and upload our Phase 2 drawings once the set has been finalized. Again, we'll need to stay on top of this once we get the green light to begin on Phase 2 after the bonding is approved in July.*
- A meeting was held with the climbers on site Saturday, April 27th. Heidi Bringman (LHB) attended, as well as Dave Barsness, John Gaede, and Kathy George. Good discussion was had regarding the Phase 2 details.
- 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. This was discussed on April 27th as well.
- More survey work is needed for the new campsite area, too.

Revised schedule for Phase 2 project:

May/June 2024	LHB/City work on additional services agreement
July/August 2024	Project reconnaissance/additional survey needs (once funding is approved and released)
Fall 2024	Final design/prepare construction documents
January 2025	Bid date (dependent on funding approvals)
Spring 2025	Construction begins
Late Summer 2025	Final completion

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

Phase 2 Project Scope:

- In-fill survey for campsite areas/missing topography, Kettle River bathymetry for water access points, climbers area (schoolhouse access), and possibly for rare tree species per attached letter.
- Regulatory permit assistance for DNR approval (see above discussion)
- Two public water access improvements
- Gravel loop drive with climbing hub parking lot (including recent climbers wish list)
- Portable toilet area and stone stage near climbing hub
- Two relocated campsites, two new campsites, and 1 new group campsite (plus restoration of old campsites)
- Natural trail obliteration, restoration, and new trail creation
- Interpretative signage, storytelling and park signage
- Continuation of River trail
- Portage drop-off, parking, and spur road
- Site furnishings
- Trash pad with screening
- Project management and meetings during final design
- Construction administration and meetings during construction

Phase 3 Project

The deadline to apply for the next round of Legacy Grant funds is July 1, 2024. As discussed, the Phase 3 Project Scope will include:

- Camper cabins in Upper Robinson
- Parking
- Trails, including connecting Upper to Lower Robinson
- Restrooms/Shower
- Overlooks
- Picnic Shelter

Heidi Bringman will prepare a proposal to help us with very preliminary concept designs and project budget.

Angle Park

Options are being pursued regarding converting Angle Park into a dog park and pickleball court. A request to purchase the property has been submitted to BNSF. A request for people interested in helping to establish a pickleball court is included in the City's Spring Newsletter (3 people have responded so far).

- Some options regarding the dog park layout will be brought back to the Commission for review and discussion
- A meeting will be scheduled to discuss pickleball

Panther Park

- FCI has been asked to consider fabricating a decorative fence along the street perimeter of the park.
- The toddler playground feature has been delivered. A meeting with the installers is scheduled for Thursday, May 9th, at 10:00 a.m.
 - Quarry Lions have decided to use their \$7,442.07 grant to purchase and install a Lions head drinking fountain in the park, instead of pledging it towards the toddler playground feature.
- The bike repair station and 2 bike racks have been ordered with proceeds from the Gaede Family Lemonade Stand. These will be installed after the toddler playground is installed.
- The 4 benches donated by Bill & Becky Gaede have been received, they will be installed after the toddler playground is installed.
- The 1 bench ordered for the Jamison family has now been received (a plaque is needed). This bench will also be installed after the toddler playground is installed.

Bicycle/Paved Trails

- MN DOT is working on TH23 north of Sandstone to Askov
 - They are adding more bicycle signage at the Munger Trail section that leads into Banning (just south of I-35)
 - They will not be painting the shoulders with bicycle symbols leading into Sandstone
 - They will replace the current bicycle trail signage
 - George is looking into options on increase the signage into Sandstone
- The trail section on Hwy 61 needs a complete mill and overlay
 - Quotes will be solicited
 - Funding opportunities will be pursued

Skunk Creek Trail

A work day was held on April 25th. The “To Do List” included:

- Make 2 ft wide boardwalk sections over 2 low spots
- Need 80 feet of 4X4s - for @ 40 ft of boardwalk, planks cut to 2 feet, drill and screws, shovel
- Place 3 no ATV signs
- Need signs and posts, post driver
- get measurements for bridge steps
- trim brush/trails

Public Works staff worked with David Chasson on these items.

General

Tobacco Free Signs are on hand and will be installed in Panther Park, Lions Hill, Johnson Park, and the Pavilion in Train Park very soon.

Other

- Lions Hill – someone was camping (or something) in the wooded area east of the skating rink (debris and needles were found during Park Clean up); the Sheriff and CSP Samuelson will be informed and asked to keep an eye on this area
- Sandstone Flower & Garden Club: Special Event Permit
- Rapids Riders Whitewater Canoe & Kayak Club, Inc. Commercial Use and Special Event Permits

Adjourn

Motion White, second Gaede to adjourn at 9:00 a.m. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy George, City Administrator