

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Friday, July 17, 2024

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

Members absent: Elsie Laursen

Staff Present: Administrator Kathy George, Public Works Director Craig Hiler

Other: None

Call to Order

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

Approve Agenda

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

Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion White, second Barsness, to approve the minutes from the June 14, 2024 meeting.

Motion passed 6-0.

New Business

Panther Park – Next Steps

Now that the toddler feature has been added to Panther Park, the Commission discussed next steps. Commissioner Gaede reported that his kids would like to purchase two Tilted Whirlwind Seats (\$991 each) with proceeds from their pancake breakfast fundraiser. Commissioners would also like to add a Spinner, some Large (\$4,381 each) and Small Tree Climbers (\$3,906 for two), and a large pile of sandstone boulders. These features are desired in place of the originally planned RockScape Climber (\$56,470). Commissioners would also like to add sandstone boulders along the west side (alley) of the property, allow for on-site parking, add trees for shade, and save space for a future pavilion and restroom facility.

The bike repair station, 2 bike racks, and 5 benches currently on hand will be installed soon; locations were discussed. More picnic tables are also desired (in shaded areas). The Quarry Lions will be installing a Lions Head drinking fountain soon.

The Commission would also like to move forward with the ornamental fence along 4th, Commercial and Court. People have expressed concerns with kids running out into the street. An updated quote was received from Century Fence for \$33,230.00. Using \$3,832 from the KREEC fund (the remaining balance), \$3,448 from donations received specifically for fencing, and \$20,000 from the 2025 budget for Panther Park, a shortage of \$5,950 remains. Fundraising efforts are on-going.

Motion Sandell, second Barsness to recommend the City Council accept the quote from Century Fence for the ornamental fencing for Panther Park in the amount of \$33,230.00 and move forward with installation this year. Motion carried 6-0.

Continuing Business/Updates

Annual Events

- Quarry Days – August 9-10
 - Commissioner White agreed to host a booth on Saturday to promote the City Parks; she is working on promotional materials
 - Chair Dybvig will help from 12:00-2:00; Commissioner Barsness will help from 2:00-4:00

- Mary Thorvig Memorial Tree Garden “planting” ceremony – August 11, 1:00-3:00
 - Picnic lunch provided – the Am Legion Auxiliary have agreed to prepare/serve
 - Commissioner White’s daughter created a beautiful informational brochure
 - Nathan Frazer will be asked to perform
 - Notices will be sent out to local churches and put in the newspaper and posted on Social Media
 - Pastor Chris Cundiff will be asked to speak
 - Commissioners noted that the natural wildflowers have grown up in the garden and are beautiful – exactly what Mary Thorvig would have wanted

- Robinson Quarry Park Clean Up – typically September or October
 - Commissioner Barsness will meet with PW Director Hiler and Commissioner Vavricka to compile a list of goals to accomplish; he will then coordinate with the Rapids Riders and the Climbers to choose a date

- Oktoberfest – October 5th
 - the Chmielewski Funtime Band has been booked
 - the bounce house has been reserved
 - the Sandstone Lions will serve beer and brats

- Quarry City Christmas – November 30

Various Updates

Robinson Quarry Park

Camping Data – There were 77 registrations for 112 days of camping in June and \$570.40 was collected in camping registration fees.

Legacy Grant Projects

Phase 1 & 1(a) Project

- The pavilion needs to be installed once the additional parts arrive.
- Some plants and trees did not make it over the winter. The grass is looking poorly as well.
- Fine grading is needed by the vault toilet and the picnic shelter/plaza area.
- Paving the road and walking trail will likely be done in one day;

- traditional bituminous mix will be used (most durable).
- If funds remain in the budget, perhaps we can replace the small pavilion

Phase 2 Project

- A meeting was held June 25th to review the plans for Phase 2
- 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.
- LHB needs to coordinate with the DNR regarding the Ordinary High Water Mark for the river access points
- SHPO need to be engaged in a conversation regarding the former dam site – addressing clean-up at the water’s edge for safety and water transport; some expert advice is needed regarding what needs to be done and how to go about doing it
- The new parking lot near the climbers’ area was discussed; Commissioners don’t see a need for curbs, curb stops, or anything like that
- A meeting will be set up to focus on signage
- SHPO recommends the Phase 2 plans be reviewed by an archeologist – Nienow Cultural Consultants will be asked for a quote (they conducted the Cultural Landscape Report)
- The kayak railing that is proposed with the river access near the new pavilion/plaza area was discussed. Commissioner Vavrck stated that no one uses them; he’s been all over and has never seen one being used. His preference is a wider staircase.
- Commissioners noted concerns with accessibility at the portages and river access points

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; MN DOT is planning a signage survey for next year
- The trail section on Hwy 61 (Sandstone Junction Trail) needs a complete mill and overlay
 - A Request for Proposals has been published in various local newspapers
 - Inquiries are coming in; proposals are due August 30th
 - Funding opportunities will be pursued

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

Park Inspection forms for Lions Hill (Commissioner Vavricka) and Johnson Park (Commissioner White) were shared.

It was decided to cancel the August 9th Park Commission Meeting as many Commissioners are involved with Quarry Days activities.

Adjourn

Motion Vavricka, second White to adjourn at 9:35 a.m. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy George, City Administrator