

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

Friday, September 13, 2024

**Members present:** Dorothy Dybvig, John Gaede, Tony Vavricka, Karry White, Todd Sandell, Elsie Laursen

**Members absent:** Dave Barsness, Council Liaison Val Palmer

**Staff Present:** Administrator Kathy George

**Other:** Brooke Clennon

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:20 a.m. by Commissioner Vavricka. Chair Dybvig arrived shortly after.

**Approve Agenda**

**Motion White, second Sandell to approve the Agenda with the addition of Tombstone/Marker Discussion. Motion passed 6-0.**

**Approve Meeting Minutes**

**Motion Gaede, second Laursen, to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2024 meeting with the amendment to give credit to Alanea White for creating brochures. Motion passed 6-0.** The Commission did not meet in August.

**New Business**

**Brooke Clennon – Eagle Scout Project**

East Central High School student and Scout Brooke Clennon appeared before the Park Commission to discuss her idea for an Eagle Scout project. She would like to create an “activities shed” at Panther Park. She would raise funds, build the shed, and stock it with park-type items people could use and replace (such as, frisbees, basketballs, jump ropes, etc.). Items would be marked “Property of Sandstone” or something similar, and available on the honor system. Clennon is reviewing design ideas and plans to paint the shed to match the park. Commissioners were supportive of the idea. Commissioner Sandell agreed to work with Clennon on the details/coordination with the Park Commission/City.

**Motion White, second Vavricka to recommend the City Council approve Brooke Clennon’s Eagle Scout Project to build and stock an “activities shed” for Panther Park. Motion carried 7-0.**

**National Fitness Campaign**

Commissioners watched a short video provided by the National Fitness Campaign regarding an outdoor fitness court that would be free to users. The basic fitness court & equipment package is \$150,000 (plus a concrete slab). The National Fitness campaign will provide a \$50,000 grant and assist with fundraising. Commissioners were intrigued by the project and will further explore the possibilities. One of these fitness courts has been installed in Moose Lake.

Sandstone Quarry Lions & Sandstone Lions – Bench Donation

The Park Commission received an application to place a bench in Panther Park in honor of the Sandstone Quarry Lions Club and the Sandstone Lions Club. They will donate up to \$900 towards the bench.

**Motion Vavricka, second Sandell to accept the bench donation for Panther Park from the Sandstone Quarry Lions and the Sandstone Lions Clubs. Motion carried 6-0.**

Sandstone Junction Trail

A very active community group received funding back in 1995 (or so) to create a connecting trail along Highway 61, west of the 35-Interstate from Groningen Road to Grindstone Road, located on County right-of-way and on private property. The City of Sandstone and Pine County committed to maintaining the trail segment:

... the City shall maintain or arrange for the maintenance of those portions of the trail... which lie outside of the boundaries of Banning State Park and are outside of the shoulder line of a road under the County's jurisdiction. The County shall maintain those portions of the trail located within the shoulder of a road under the County's jurisdiction.

This trail section has not been maintained and is currently unusable. The City has received many complaints over the years – both from users and from homeowners along this trail segment.

A request for proposals was issued and three responses were received:

\$118,440.00 SealTech, Inc  
\$158,500.00 Northland Constructors  
\$171,150.00 Knife River Corporation – North Central

Both SealTech and Knife River recommend cleaning the existing pavement, applying a sealer, and adding 2 new inches of bituminous on top. Northland proposed a mill and overlay project. The County Engineer has been asked to review the proposals and determine which proposal would be acceptable.

The City is expected to collect one-time transportation funds in 2025 in the amount of \$53,676. Perhaps the City Council would be willing to allocate these funds towards the trail project.

The County has been asked for assistance as well and will invite the City to attend an upcoming Trail Advisory Committee meeting. The meeting is expected to occur in late-October.

It would probably be a good idea to secure easements over the private properties involved.

Consensus of the Commission was support for the effort. It was suggested to check with the snowmobile clubs for funding as well, and to create an on-going maintenance plan for the trail.

### Dog Park Signage

Now that the fencing for the dog park has been installed, signage is needed. Commissioners reviewed several examples of signs and chose appropriate signage for the park.

### Banning State Park – Youth Hunt

The annual Banning State Park Youth Hunt is on November 2nd and 3rd. A small portion of Banning State Park is in City limits. Park Manager Clarissa Payne is requesting permission to conduct the youth hunt and for the City to waive City Code 133 (use of firearms) for the event.

**Motion White, second Vavricka to recommend the City Council approve the Banning State Park Youth Hunt on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and waive City Code 133 (use of firearms) for the event. Motion passed 6-0.**

### Tombstone/Marker Discussion

Commissioner Sandell reported that Jim Larson would like to place the Tombstone/Marker that was found in Robinson Quarry Park on a portion of the wagon bridge foundation. The marker is currently located at the Public Works Shop. Larson will be asked to attend the October meeting for further discussion.

### Continuing Business/Updates

#### Annual Events

Schedule of 2024 Activities/Events:

- Quarry Days – August 9-10
  - Event was very successful.
  - Commissioners White, Vavricka and Dybvig represented the Park Commission well.
- Mary Thorvig Memorial Tree Garden “planting” ceremony – August 11
  - Picnic lunch provided – prepared and served by the Am Legion Auxiliary
  - Pastor Daniel Brendsel lead attendees in the memorial service
  - Commissioner White created a brochure (copies will be available at the meeting)
  - Thorvig’s donated \$500 towards adding LED lights on the trees; Commissioner White is pursuing options
  - The event was well attended and much appreciated.
- Robinson Quarry Park Clean Up – typically September or October
  - Commissioner Barsness is coordinating with the climbers
- Oktoberfest – October 5th
  - the Chmielewski Funtime Band had to back out due to health concerns
  - The Jolly Zuks will perform from 1-5
  - The History Center will host a beer stein contest
  - Free pumpkins will be available for carving

- Grace will be selling cider and pretzels
  - Quarry Lions will sell cake and crafts
  - Sandstone Lions will have the beer garden and sell burgers & brats
  - Knapsnacks food truck will offer corndogs, cheese curds & lemonade
  - Sandstone Pizza will sell pizza, pop and water
  - Ann River Winery will sell wine
  - EC Junior Class will sell popcorn
  - The poster will appear in the NPCN and Pine County Courier 9/19 and 9/26 editions and in the Evergreen 9/21 and 9/28 editions; it will also go out on the City's Fall Newsletter
  - 5 crafters have signed up so far
- Quarry City Christmas – November 30
    - Commissioner White is looking into settings/props for taking selfies

### **Various Updates**

#### **Robinson Quarry Park**

Camping Data – There were 21 registrations for 36 days of camping in July and 34 registrations for 48 days of camping in August.

#### **Legacy Grant Projects**

##### Phase 1 & 1(a) Project

- The pavilion needs to be installed once the additional parts arrive. **UPDATE:** Our order is packed and ready to ship – waiting for more info.
  - Color samples were provided for the new metal roof; Commissioners would like it to match or be similar to the roof on the vault toilet building.
- Some plants and trees did not make it over the winter.
- Walking trail has been paved; final lift on the road will occur soon.
- If funds remain in the budget, perhaps we can replace the small pavilion??

#### **General**

Tobacco Free Signs have been installed in Panther Park, Lions Hill, Johnson Park, and the Pavilion in Train Park.

#### **Other**

Special Event Permits have been issued:

American Legion Post 151 Annual Picnic: September 7<sup>th</sup>

Sandstone History and Art Center Practice: September 12<sup>th</sup>

Commercial Use Permit has been issued:

Iowa State University of Science and Technology: October 18-20; January & February 2025 (TBD)

Commissioner White will order an event tent and table wrap for the Park Commission to use at various events.

**Adjourn**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy George, City Administrator