

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Friday, October 11, 2024

Members present: Dorothy Dybvig, Karry White, Todd Sandell, Elsie Laursen, Dave Barsness, Council Liaison Val Palmer

Members absent: Tony Vavricka, John Gaede

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 Laursen to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion passed 5-0.

Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion White, second Laursen, to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2024 meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

New Business No discussion.

Continuing Business/Updates

Annual Events

- Oktoberfest – October 5th
 - The Jolly Zuks performed from 1-5 and have been invited back next year
 - The History Center hosted a beer stein contest – over 20 entries were exhibited
 - 50 free pumpkins were available for carving
 - Grace sold cider and pretzels
 - Quarry Lions sold German Chocolate cake, coffee and crafts
 - Sandstone Lions had the beer garden and sold hotdogs & brats
 - Knapsnacks food truck sold corndogs, cheese curds & lemonade
 - Sandstone Pizza – cancelled
 - Sandstone Fire Department sold pork chops
 - Ann River Winery sold wine
 - EC Junior Class – did not show up; popcorn was given out for free
 - Advertising included the poster in the NPCN and Pine County Courier 9/19 and 9/26 editions and in the Evergreen 9/21 and 9/28 editions; it also went out on the City's Fall Newsletter, City website, Facebook
 - 11 crafters signed up; 1 cancelled due to illness; 3 did not show up
 - The weather started out really windy, but it calmed down, the sun was shining and a good time was had by all

- Robinson Quarry Park Clean Up – October 19th

- Commissioner Barsness is coordinating with the Climbers; he will arrange for pizza and refreshments
 - Commissioner Laursen will check with High School students on availability
 - Administrator George will put a notice in the Out and About section of the newspaper; she will also order donuts from Chris' Food Center
 - Commissioner White will post the event on Facebook and the City Website
- Quarry City Christmas – November 30
 - Commissioner White is looking for backgrounds for photo ops

Various Updates

Robinson Quarry Park

Camping Data – There were 25 registrations for 27 days of camping in September, with \$599 collected in camping fees.

New Sign

Erin Sandell reached out and offered to help create a new entrance sign for Robinson Quarry Park. Perhaps we can work together and apply for a grant from the East Central Regional Arts Council.

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

Legacy Grant Projects

Phase 1 & 1(a) Project

- The pavilion needs to be installed once the additional parts arrive. Our order is packed and ready to ship – waiting for more info.
- The estimate for the pavilion metal roof is \$57,662.00, which includes a 20-year paint warranty. Extra Dark Bronze was chosen as the color.
- 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??

Commissioner Barsness reported a problem with the new boat ramp; he would like to see some boulders added to the end of the ramp to assist launching boats when the water level is low.

Phase 2 Project

- The State contract has been fully executed
- Heidi/LHB is working with an archeologist regarding protecting the historic elements
- A site verification/review meeting will be set up with the DNR to talk about the former dam site
- Additional survey work is needed to determine feasibility for extending electricity
- Heidi will submit an amendment to LHB's contract for the Phase 2 project
- The DNR general waters permit will be submitted once the design is further along

Phase 3 Project – Apply in 2025

As discussed, the Phase 3 Project Scope will include:

- Camper cabins in Upper Robinson (Pine Tech is interested in building these for us)
- Parking
- Trails, including connecting Upper to Lower Robinson
- Restrooms/Showers
- Overlooks
- Picnic Shelter
- Examples of Camper Cabin options will be brought to the next meeting

Fitness Court

Administrator George and Commissioner White went to check out the Moose Lake Township Fitness Court. When we arrived Donna Kirk (Essentia) was there. She is the Clerk for the Township. We had a great conversation with her about the process. Their Fitness Court is brand new. A ribbon cutting event is scheduled for October 17th at 3:00 p.m.

Miscellaneous Updates

- Sandstone Junction Trail Update:
 - The Council agreed to earmark \$53,676 towards the project
 - Both the County Engineer and the City Engineer reviewed all three proposals received; both recommend moving forward with the proposal from Northland Constructors of Duluth for \$158,500 (a complete mill and overlay)
 - The County’s Land Advisory Committee meets on October 22nd; they are being asked to match the City’s commitment
 - The Age Friendly MN Community Grant process is being considered
 - The Transportation Alternative program funds are being considered
 - Perhaps Sandstone and Dell Grove Townships will contribute
 - Hopefully, this project can be completed in 2025
- Dog Park Signage has been ordered
- Eagle Scout Project Update
 - Commissioner Sandell is working with Eagle Scout Brooke Clennon on the details
- A pedestal sign for the MT Memorial Tree Garden has arrived; sign content work is needed; the sign surface is 24” high by 36” wide; LED signs have also arrived and need to be installed
 - Commissioners provided input on the sign text
- Panther Park Update
 - Commissioner White met on site with Public Works Director Hiler to discuss placement of park benches, border boulders, picnic tables, etc.

Adjourn

Motion White, second Barsness to adjourn at 9:05 a.m. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy George, City Administrator