

**Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes**

July 10, 2023

The Parks & Recreation Commission met on Monday, July 10, 2023, at 4 p.m. in the first floor conference room at City Hall, 444 West Grand Avenue, Wisconsin Rapids, WI. The meeting was also streamed LIVE on the City of Wisconsin Rapids Facebook page.

1. Call to order.

Commission Chairperson Veneman called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Commissioners present in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room were Kris Barteck, Mayor Blaser, Craig Broeren, Tom Ekelin, Tom Rayome, Lee Thao, and Dean Veneman.Carolynn Martin appeared via videoconference. Staff present were Dawn Desorcy and Jake Klingforth.

2. Approve June 12, 2023, meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Broeren, seconded by Thao to approve the meeting minutes of June 12, 2023. Motion carried.

3. Consider approval of Community Swim event sponsored by McCain Foodservice.

A motion was made by Mayor Blaser, seconded by Commissioner Broeren, to approve the Community Swim event sponsored by McCain Foodservice, to be held outside of regular business hours. Motion carried. A second motion was made by Commissioner Veneman, seconded by Commissioner Ekelin, that the same guidelines be followed as the previous motion for future events as long as operating costs are covered. Motion carried.

4. Aquatics Center update.

The new equipment is working well. There have been a few staff issues that are being addressed. To date, there are more daily passes and concessions being sold compared to last season. Season passes and punch passes also appear to be on track to increase from last season.

5. Legacy Grant update for Mead Park.

We were awarded the Legacy Grant for Mead Park, and are looking forward to the next steps in the process. A City contribution will be necessary, so this item will be included on the next Finance & Property Agenda as an action item for the August Parks & Recreation Commission. The project details and layout of the area will be provided to the Commissioner members.

6. Update on Prairie Dog Exhibit.

The tunnel has not arrived yet. Everything else is ready to go once the tunnel arrives. Footings for glass are ordered, and the prairie dogs will be delivered after everything is ready to go.

7. Ideas for remaining Teske fund.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barteck, seconded by Commissioner Rayome, to move forward on gathering information regarding a bird exhibit. Motion carried. Pictures of the bird exhibit from the New Zoo tour last fall will be shared.

**Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes**

July 10, 2023

Page 2

8. Update on Dog Park and naming of Dog Park.

We are still growing grass but the drought is not helping. We have started treating for buckthorn, which will be a continuous fight. The parking lot will be paved at the end of this month (when 32<sup>nd</sup> Street is done). To date, the project is under budget, and the remaining money will be used for signage.

9. Bills.

A motion was made by Mayor Blaser, seconded by Commissioner Thao, to approve the bills. Motion carried.

10. Staff reports.

Dawn and Jake presented staff reports.

11. Adjourn.

A motion was made by Mayor Blaser, seconded by Commissioner Rayome, to adjourn. Motion carried.

For future meeting – bring budget items that should be discussed.

Dawn Desorcy, Recording Secretary