

CITY OF WISCONSIN RAPIDS
PARKS / RECREATION / BUILDINGS
220 3rd Avenue South, Suite 3, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495, (715) 421-8240

Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes

October 9, 2023

The Parks & Recreation Commission met on Monday, October 9, 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.

Dean called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Commissioners present in the first floor conference room were Kris Barteck, Mayor Blaser, Craig Broeren, Tom Ekelin, Dean Veneman, and Elizabeth Whelan. Carolynn Martin appeared via videoconference. Tom Rayome and Lee Thao were absent. Staff present were Dawn Desorcy, Jake Klingforth, and Sue Schill. Also attending was Amy Marquard.

2. Approve September 11, 2023, meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Broeren, seconded by Mayor Blaser, to approve the minutes of September 11, 2023. Motion carried.

3. Consider approval for the creation of a recreational swim team program, including the hiring of a coach/instructor, the rental of the school district pool, and the setting of fees for program participation.

Amy Marquard spoke on behalf of the parents who have children interested in a recreational swim team. The YMCA swim team is membership-based, which can make joining cost-prohibitive for some. She didn't believe that the YMCA does a good job of advertising for their swim team program.

Attorney Schill expressed concerns, including risk management; that no other municipality has a swim team program, all are club-sponsored or YMCA teams; the swim parents appear to have an organized structure in place and should be able to and encouraged to run the team on their own; the YMCA swim team continues and this program would be taking swimmers from that program and would be in competition with the YMCA; questions if the City should be the one to solve any issues those parents may have with the YMCA, and what precedent this might set with other local recreational or other programming from private or non-profit entities in the City.

Mayor Blaser does not have an issue with this, but wants to ensure that we can handle running this program in our department, and that the parents group currently involved understand that this team will be a City-run recreation program.

A motion was made by Mayor Blaser, seconded by Commissioner Broeren, to approve the creation of a recreational swim team program, including the hiring of a coach/instructor, and the rental of the school district pool, provided there be a minimum of 20 participants registered. Fees for participation will be as presented, based upon the estimated expenses for the program. Motion carried.

4. Discuss ideas for remaining Teske fund.

The commission agreed that staff should move forward to get costs together on a potential bird exhibit.

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5. Dog Park update.

The Leash-Cutting grand opening of the park is this Wednesday, October 11, at 4:30 p.m.

6. Bills.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ekelin, seconded by Commissioner Broeren, to approve the bills. Motion carried.

7. Staff reports.

Dawn and Jake presented reports. Commissioner Ekelin requested that budget, capital plans, and room tax dollars be brought to the next meeting. It was noted to have estimates ready for baseball fencing project.

8. Adjourn.

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

Dawn Desorcy, Recording Secretary