

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

Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes

December 11, 2023

The Parks & Recreation Commission met on Monday, December 11, 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.

Commissioner Veneman called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

All Commissioners were present. Staff present were Dawn Desorcy and Jake Klingforth. Also attending were Alderperson Dennis Polach and Ken Day.

2. Approve October 9, 2023, meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Mayor Blaser, seconded by Commissioner Rayome, to approve the minutes of October 9, 2023. Motion carried.

3. Update on the Mead Park project.

MSTC is helping with the grading and drainage for the pickleball courts. We are hoping to begin work in the next few weeks if weather allows. The school is planning to begin their work on this project in the spring.

4. Discuss possible expansion of current zoo exhibits utilizing remaining Teske fund moneys.

We are waiting to hear back from USDA to see if we are able to own a dwarf alligator; that enclosure is included in the estimates. There are still pens that have concrete floors and we would like a more natural habitat for the animals housed there. A motion was made by Commissioner Veneman, seconded by Commissioner Barteck, to approve the estimate for approximately \$39,000 for expansion of current zoo exhibits utilizing Teske fund moneys. Motion carried.

We recently visited the Baraboo Zoo to see their river otter exhibit, which was constructed in 2018. River otters were noted in our zoo plan as a highly desirable exhibit. We hope to apply for the Legacy Grant as a way to fund this. There was no motion made, but the commission feels we should move forward on gathering information on this potential project.

5. Update on Tree Trec project with Mead/Witter Foundation.

This project has been fully funded and in the works for the past 6 months. It includes an informational plate attached to stake in the ground near a tree with a QR code that may be scanned to allow people to see more information about the type of tree that it is placed by. We plan to include these as part of our Arbor Day celebration in 2024.

6. Bills.

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

7. Staff reports.

Dawn and Jake presented reports.

Ken Day from the Rafters noted that field lights and sound system are issues at Witter Field. These items will be discussed at a future meeting.

8. Adjourn.

A motion was made by Commissioner Thao, seconded by Commissioner Whelen, to adjourn. Motion carried.

Dawn Desorcy, Recording Secretary