

CITY OF WISCONSIN RAPIDS
PARKS / RECREATION / BUILDINGS
444 West Grand Avenue, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-2780, (715) 421-8240

Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes

March 15, 2021

A regular meeting of the Wisconsin Rapids Parks & Recreation Commission was held via remote videoconferencing on Monday, March 15, 2021, at 4 p.m. The public was invited to listen to the audio of the meeting. The meeting was also streamed LIVE on the City of Wisconsin Rapids Facebook page.

1. Call to order.

Commissioner Broeren called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Commissioners present in the City Hall Council Chambers were Mayor Blaser, Craig Broeren, and Tom Ekelin. Appearing via videoconference were Kris Barteck,Carolynn Martin, Tom Rayome, and Lee Thao. Staff present in the Council Chambers were Dawn Desorcy, Matt Heideman, Jake Klingforth, and Tyler Mickelson; Kyle Kearns and Joe Terry appeared via videoconferencing. Alderperson Dennis Polach was also in attendance. Steven Koth and Kelly Rosekrans were excused.

2. Approve February 8, 2021, meeting minutes.

A motion to approve the February 8, 2021, meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Ekelin, seconded by Commissioner Rayome. Motion carried.

3. Discussion and possible action on the name of the Wisconsin Rapids Recreation Complex and surrounding park area.

The current name was not formally discussed or decided upon by the Commission. In discussions surrounding the logo for the Aquatics Center, the group did not ever feel that “Complex” was a positive term, and would like to formalize the name prior to completing the logo. It was suggested by Commissioner Rayome that staff suggest possible names and discuss at the next meeting. Mayor Blaser will discuss with staff and bring suggestions back to the next meeting.

4. Discussion and possible action on plan for Aquatics Center opening (i.e., any restrictions on resident/nonresident attendance and/or any restrictions on capacity).

A motion was made by Mayor Blaser, seconded by Commissioner Barteck, that the Aquatics Center open on June 7 with no geographical restrictions and a maximum capacity of 600 people (based on further suggestions from the Wood County Health Department), noting that the status of the Aquatics Center could change at any time depending on the COVID-19 situation. Motion carried.

5. Update on Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Staff and Commission representatives have a kickoff meeting tomorrow, March 16, and will discuss the plan for next steps in the process.

6. Update on renovations at the Zoo.

Parrot pen is 90% complete, and we are getting a fence estimate. The new entrance area looks very nice also.

Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes

March 15, 2021

Page 2

7. Bills.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ekelin, seconded by Mayor Blaser, to approve the bills as presented.

8. Staff reports.

Mary submitted a written report. Jake submitted a verbal and written report.

Mayor Blaser gave an update on the Legislative Committee meeting discussion on powers of the Parks & Recreation Commission and is requesting 2 members sit on the group discussing this.

Security cameras (for Skate Park and playgrounds) will be discussed at the next meeting.

9. Adjourn.

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

Dawn Desorcy, Recording Secretary