

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

Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes

April 10, 2023

The Parks & Recreation Commission met on Monday, April 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.

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

Kris Barteck, Mayor Blaser, Craig Broeren, Tom Ekelin, Tom Rayome, Lee Thao were in attendance. Patrick Gatterman,Carolynn Martin, and Dean Veneman were excused. Staff present were Dawn Desorcy and Jake Klingforth. Also attending were Alderperson Dennis Polach and Diane Passineau.

2. Approve February 13, 2023, meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rayome, seconded by Mayor Blaser, to approve the minutes of February 13, 2023. Motion carried.

3. Consider request for Little Free Library in a City Park.

Diane Passineau spoke about this request on behalf of Renaissance Learning. They would like to place a Little Free Library in Veteran's Park. LHS industrial arts class is building the library and the City will install it.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barteck, seconded by Commissioner Thao, to approve the request from Renaissance Learning to install a Little Free Library at Veteran's Park. Motion carried.

4. Update on Dog Park.

We received three (3) bids for the fence; Finance & Property Committee will finalize the selection at their next meeting. Work remaining at the park includes grinding, pulverizing, and then seeding. We hope to open in September to allow the grass to get established.

5. Update on Prairie Dog Exhibit.

The original plan must be modified (the exhibit will be slightly smaller) due to the water table in that area. The location is between the camel pen and the fox pen. We are waiting for the crawl tunnel to be delivered. We will be getting 8 prairie dogs. We hope to open the exhibit when the Zoo opens for the season; this will depend on when the glass is ready.

6. Update on Legacy Grant Application.

This application is a collaborative request between the City and Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools, with plans to develop the Mead Park area into an extensive recreational area which will include new play structures, basketball courts, pickleball courts, and an expanded picnic area. If we are awarded this grant, the Commission will need to make a financial commitment at a future meeting. At this point, a timeline is not confirmed.

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7. Bills.

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

8. Staff reports.

Dawn and Jake presented staff reports.

Future agenda items: Ideas for remaining Teske money and naming dog park.

9. Adjourn.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rayome, seconded by Commissioner Thao. Motion carried.

Dawn Desorcy, Recording Secretary