

Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes

May 11, 2020

A regular meeting of the Wisconsin Rapids Parks & Recreation Commission was held via remote videoconferencing on Monday, May 11, 2020, at 3:30 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 Rosekrans called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

Commissioners present in the City Hall Council Chambers were Mayor Blaser, Craig Broeren, Steve Koth, Tom Rayome, Kelly Rosekrans, and Lee Thao. Appearing via videoconference were Kris Barteck and Tom Ekelin. Staff present in the Council Chambers were Dawn Desorcy, Matt Heideman, Joe Terry, and Mary Wolosek.

2. Approve March 9, 2020, meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Broeren, seconded by Commissioner Thao to approve the minutes of March 9, 2020. Motion carried.

3. Election of officers.

Commissioner Thao nominated Kelly Rosekrans for chairperson and requested that nominations be closed and that a unanimous ballot be cast for Kelly Rosekrans as chairperson. There being no objection, Rosekrans was voted Chairperson.

Commissioner Thao nominated Craig Broeren for vice-chairperson and requested that nominations be closed and that a unanimous ballot be cast for Craig Broeren as vice-chairperson. There being no objection, Broeren was voted vice-chairperson.

4. Discuss timeline for opening park facilities:

- Aquatics facility.
A motion was made by Commissioner Broeren, seconded by Commissioner Ekelin, to allow for 19 day latitude for the aquatics facility contractors, and to not open the facility until state guidelines allow. Motion carried. (The Commission hopes to have more information at the June meeting.)
- Recreational programming.
Some recreation activities may be able to be held as planned with accommodations made for spacing and attendance limits. The CDC and health department guidelines will be followed for any upcoming classes.
- Upcoming events and shelter reservations.
If state guidelines do not change, events and shelter reservations will be unable to proceed as planned. An email will be sent to everyone who has a reservation during the month of June, informing them they may need to consider an alternate location for their event, unless event capacity restrictions are lifted prior to their event.
- City parks.
Walking trails and parks are open, but restrooms remain closed.

5. Update on Bear Pen construction at the Zoo.

Structurally, the bear pen is complete; there is a bit of finishing work to be done, but it turned out very nice. Matt noted that he has been in contact with our animal supplier. Animals need to be certified by a veterinarian prior to their arrival at the zoo. This cannot be done until after the safer at home order is lifted, which means the zoo opening may be delayed by one to two weeks.

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6. Update on Aquatic Recreational Center.
Discussed in item 4.
7. Bills.
A motion was made by Commissioner Thao, seconded by Commissioner Koth, to approve the bills.
Motion carried.
8. Staff reports.
Matt and Mary provided verbal and written reports.
9. Adjourn.
A motion was made by Commissioner Rayome, seconded by Commissioner Koth, to adjourn. Motion carried.

Items for an upcoming agenda include clarification on the role of commission members and discussion on development of a comprehensive park plan.

Dawn Desorcy, Recording Secretary