

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

Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes

June 12, 2023

The Parks & Recreation Commission met on Monday, June 12, 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.

Commission Chairperson Veneman called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Commissioners present in the 1st floor conference room were Mayor Blaser, Craig Broeren, Tom Ekelin, Tom Rayome, and Dean Veneman. Kris Barteck, Patrick Gatterman, Carolyn Martin, and Lee Thao were absent. Staff present were Dawn Desorcy, Jake Klingforth, and Paul Vollert. Also attending was Alderperson Dennis Polach.

2. Approve May 8, 2023, meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Mayor Blaser, seconded by Commissioner Rayome, to approve the minutes of May 8, 2023. Motion carried.

3. A request by Public Works Department to dump waste fill from local construction project on south side of sledding hill at Poplar Springs Park.

A motion was made by Commissioner Broeren, seconded by Commissioner Ekelin, to allow the Public Works Department to dump waste fill on the south side of the sledding hill at Poplar Springs Park. Motion carried.

4. Request by Public Works Department for permission to put up Community Banners by the Welcome to Wisconsin Rapids sign by Boles Creek boat landing in Ben Hansen Park.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ekelin, seconded by Commissioner Broeren, to approve putting up Community Banners by the Welcome sign in Ben Hansen Park, contingent upon approval by Planning Zoning Commission. Motion carried.

5. Review current language and consider changing minimum age to enter the Aquatics Center. Current language: Children under 13 must be accompanied by someone over the age of 16.

A motion was made by Mayor Blaser, seconded by Commissioner Broeren, to change the minimum age to enter the Aquatics Center to 12 years old. Motion carried. (Language on the website and signage will be updated.)

6. Aquatics Center update.

The new equipment is up and running, and operating smoothly. We will likely see a cost savings for chemicals next year. The weather has been cool, so it has not been as busy as usual for opening week. Party packages have been doing well.

7. Legacy Grant update.

We are being strongly considered for the City and School District portion for the Mead Park/School area. We should receive confirmation later this summer, so finances will be discussed soon.

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8. Update on Dog Park.

The costs for creation of the park to date were distributed; the only cost not included was grass seed. The parking lot paving cost is one of the larger items remaining that will need to be done. Staff has fundraising ideas, and we hope to open in September. The park will be open all year. We would like to look at paving the path in the future as part of a long-term plan.

9. Update on Prairie Dog Exhibit.

The tunnel should be delivered on June 26. The glass and base are ordered, but tunnel needs to be completed first. The prairie dogs will arrive when the enclosure is ready for them.

10. Bills.

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

11. Staff reports.

Dawn and Jake presented staff reports.

12. Adjourn.

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

Future meeting items: Discuss ideas for remaining Teske Money, skate park policies, and dog park naming ideas.

Dawn Desorcy, Recording Secretary