

Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes

June 13, 2022

A regular meeting of the Wisconsin Rapids Parks & Recreation Commission was held in the Council Chambers and via remote videoconferencing on Monday, June 13, 2022, 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 Veneman called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Commissioners present in the City Hall Council Chambers were Craig Broeren, Tom Ekelin, Patrick Gatterman, Lee Thao, and Dean Veneman. Tom Rayome appeared via videoconference. Staff present in the Council Chambers were Dawn Desorcy, Allie Keena, Jake Klingforth, Mike Potocki, and Kelly Warrington. Tim Desorcy appeared via videoconference. Also attending in the Council Chambers was Alderperson Dennis Polach. Unable to attend were Kris Barteck, Mayor Blaser, and Carolynn Martin.

2. Approve May 9, 2022, meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Broeren, seconded by Commissioner Gatterman, to approve the minutes of May 9, 2022. Motion carried.

3. Update on Skate Park.

Interim Police Chief Potocki gave an overview on steps being taken to deter kids from vandalizing the Skate Park. Some steps being taken include monitoring cameras when an incident occurs, issuing extra patrol in the area, banning kids who are causing problems, and issuing citations.

4. Update on Aquatics Center opening week.

The Aquatics Center hosted a staff training on June 3 to prepare for opening day on June 7. Because of cool and rainy weather, the early season has not been as busy as previous years, but it will get busier as the weather warms up. There are several parties planned for the summer.

5. Discussion on fencing the Aquatics Center Outdoor Shelter area.

There has been \$18,000 worth of vandalism at the Aquatics Open Shelter since its opening in 2020. Fencing the outdoor shelter area was presented as an option by Jake Klingforth to prevent further vandalism from taking place. Consensus was to place signs stating that there are security cameras on the premises and to continue to monitor the Aquatics Center Open Shelter.

6. Update on safety items for CORP.

The main concerns are resurfacing areas at parks, such as the asphalt at the Zoo, the basketball court at Sand Lot, and making pavilions handicap-accessible. A decision will need to be made on the future of the Mead Field tennis courts. Jake Klingforth will prioritize what parks need and present future projects at upcoming meetings.

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7. Update on park outlay.

Some items that were approved last year have been purchased using park outlay. Garbage cans have been placed, automatic locks at Sand Lot, the Zoo and Lyon Park will be installed, and we are waiting on parts for the kayak launches.

8. Update on Teske budget.

There is \$311,000 remaining in the Teske fund. There is ongoing discussion on what this money will be used for, and ideas will be presented at a future meeting.

9. Discuss ideas for use of room tax money.

Room tax money is bookmarked for park outlay, and, by ordinance, is intended to be used for a public purpose. If there are other ideas for use of room tax money, there would need to be further discussion on this item.

10. Bills.

A motion to approve the bills was made by Commissioner Thao, seconded by Commissioner Gatterman. Motion carried.

11. Staff report.

Jake and Dawn presented reports.

12. Adjourn.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gatterman, seconded by Commissioner Ekelin, to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Future meeting items will include an update on strategic planning (safety and prioritizing parks), room tax money, and an update on the zoo fund (Teske and budget).

Allie Keena, Recording Secretary