

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

Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes

June 28, 2021

A regular meeting of the Wisconsin Rapids Parks & Recreation Commission was held via remote videoconferencing on Monday, June 28, 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 Veneman called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Commissioners present in the City Hall Council Chambers were Mayor Blaser, Craig Broeren, Tom Ekelin, Patrick Gatterman, Tom Rayome, Lee Thao, and Dean Veneman. Appearing via videoconference were Kris Barteck andCarolynn Martin. Staff present in the Council Chambers were Dawn Desorcy, Jake Klingforth, Paul Vollert, Kelly Warrington, and Mary Wolosek.

2. Approve May 10, 2021 and June 1, 2021, meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Broeren, seconded by Commissioner Thao, to approve the meeting minutes of May 10 and June 1, 2021. Motion carried.

3. Update on first weeks of Aquatics Center (number of people, overcrowding, concessions).

Reports were distributed with current sales for day passes, season passes, and concessions items. The first week was very busy, but no one was turned away due to overcrowding.

4. Consider approval of Swim Day Deals and Events.

Mary presented ideas for future events to encourage people to visit the Aquatics Center. A motion was made by Commissioner Broeren, seconded by Commissioner Gatterman, to approve the presented Swim Day Deals and Events. Motion carried.

5. Discuss ideas for marketing party packages.

Party packages have been posted on the City website and on Facebook. There are announcements made at the pool and flyers at the Aquatics Center. Flyers could also be placed at other City buildings (Zoo, rentable shelters, etc.). The Mayor's radio show would be another possibility to market party packages

6. Discussion on Aquatics facility rentals and suggestions for future weather events impacting rentals (i.e., rain mid-day and Aquatics Center closes).

Staff will put together a cancelation policy and guidelines for the next meeting.

7. Discuss Aquatics Center hours.

Commissioner Rayome had a few calls wondering why the Aquatics Center closes at 6; difficult for people who work until 4 or 5 to get there during the week. Programming is offered in the evenings (Zumba and swim lessons), but could consider a change for next year. Jake suggested that we open at 11 a.m. on Fridays and stay open until 7 p.m. instead of 6 p.m.; staff will look into this possibility.

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8. Update on dog park.

Staff met at Norton Pond and discussed the possibility of fencing off an approximate 5-acre portion to create a dog park. The next steps in the process would be to determine how this land might be earmarked for future use and if developing it into park space is a possibility. No decisions have been made, but staff wanted the commission to be informed of what has been discussed.

9. Update on Teske Grant money remaining and plan for use.

There is \$311,000 left in the Teske fund. Staff would like to add another attraction to the zoo, and will bring this item back to the commission with ideas and cost estimates.

10. Update on renaming of the Aquatics Complex.

Renaming of the Aquatics Center was extended to July 15, and this item will be discussed at the next meeting.

11. Update on Mead Field baseball fence renovation.

This update would make the space more usable for minimal cost. Some possible users of this area would be the Ramblers, Rangers, and pickleball players.

12. Update on Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Ayers is making a lot of progress on the Plan. Staff still needs to complete some areas; comparisons to last year are tough to use since there were not many programs or rentals. They are including dog park information into the plan.

13. Update on Parks & Recreation Commission Ad Hoc Committee.

This is a slow process; group is trying to understand what is being done currently and how to go forward.

14. Bills.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rayome, seconded by Commissioner Ekelin, to accept the bills. Motion carried.

15. Staff reports.

Mary and Jake presented verbal and written reports.

16. Adjourn.

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

Dawn Desorcy, Recording Secretary