

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

Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes

August 12, 2019

The Parks & Recreation Commission met on Monday, August 12, 2019, at 4:00 p.m., at the Wisconsin Rapids Municipal Zoo, 1911 Gaynor Avenue, Wisconsin Rapids, WI.

Members in attendance were Kris Barteck, Craig Broeren, Tom Ekelin, Steven Koth, Kelly Rosekrans, Lee Thao, and Mayor Vruwink. Lee Graf was absent. Staff attending were Dawn Desorcy, Matt Heideman, and Travis Plowman. A list of others in attendance is on file in the Parks & Recreation Department.

1. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

2. Approval of June 10, 2019, meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Koth, seconded by Commissioner Ekelin, to approve the minutes of June 10, 2019. Motion carried.

3. Election of Parks & Recreation Commission member to the Sculpture Park Committee.

Commission members would like confirmation on Sculpture Park Committee meeting times and will discuss this item at a future meeting.

4. Consider a request from Central Wisconsin Gift of Life to place a monument at Legion Park.

The Central Wisconsin Gift of Life would like to establish an area to honor organ transplant donors and recipients, and to bring awareness to organ donation. The preferred location is Legion Park, and money to cover the cost of this project has been secured. A sketch of the monument was distributed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ekelin, seconded by Commissioner Koth, to move forward on monument planning, with details to be brought back to a future meeting. Motion carried.

5. Discuss Storm Damage at City Parks.

A storm damage summary was included in the packet. All City parks had damage; power outages, tree cleanup, and stump removal will be ongoing. Priority was opening streets, and then walking trails. We hope to resume regular park work in the coming weeks. Extensive documentation was gathered for FEMA, and we are awaiting our insurance and FEMA submissions. The Mayor mentioned that someone from out of the area has offered to establish a fund to assist with trees lost in the storm.

6. Consider alternative temporary sites for winter ice skating.

The new complex will be state of the art once the new aquatics facility is built, but would like an alternative for the coming winter. Mead Field is a possible location, but lighting and warming house need to be compliant with current building codes. A motion was made by Commissioner Broeren, seconded by Mayor Vruwink, to have an alternative temporary ice skating site at Mead Field. Motion carried.

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7. Consider designating a portion of Airport property for use as a Dog Recreational Area.

The City's agreement with Advanced Disposal ends August 31, 2019; they are unwilling to extend the lease or designate that area for future use. The possible alternate location at the Airport would require approvals from both the Town of Grand Rapids and the Airport Commission, as the land is owned by the Commission, but located in Grand Rapids. A change in zoning from the Town would be necessary. This item may be considered in September at the Grand Rapids Planning meeting. The online dog park survey results will be shared at a future meeting.

8. Review the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan recommendations for Robinson Park.

There was considerable storm/tree damage at Robinson Park, so there is potential for changes to be made. Robinson Park planning will be on the September agenda. It was suggested that a referral be made regarding locations for possible tree plantings.

9. Update on Aquatic Recreational Center.

A significant amount of progress has been made, and the project is on schedule. It was suggested that the next Commission meeting be held at the new Aquatic Center.

10. Update on Zoo Phase 1 Improvements.

Costs of some improvements were a concern. MSA is willing to reconsider included items and design work to determine if there are areas for potential savings.

11. Bills.

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

12. Staff reports.

Matt provided a verbal and written report. Robinson Park – there is a logger finishing work so the utility company can repair lines; concession area will need to be assessed once trees are cleared. The City will need to discuss the north concession stand with WRYSA. We hope to have Robinson Park restored for September reservations. We are starting to lose our summer help this week.

Mary provided a written report. (Commissioner Rosekrans read for public viewers.)

13. Adjourn.

A motion was made by Commissioner Koth, seconded by Commissioner Broeren, to adjourn. Motion carried.

Dawn Desorcy, Recording Secretary