

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

Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes

August 17, 2020

A regular meeting of the Wisconsin Rapids Parks & Recreation Commission was held via remote videoconferencing on Monday, August 17, 2020, at 4:00 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 4:02 p.m.

Commissioners present in the City Hall Council Chambers were Mayor Blaser, Craig Broeren, Tom Ekelin, Carolynn Martin, Tom Rayome, and Lee Thao. Appearing via videoconference was Steven Koth. Kris Barteck was excused. Staff present in the Council Chambers were Dawn Desorcy, Matt Heideman, Tyler Mickelson, and Sue Schill. Also in attendance was Alderperson Dean Veneman.

2. Approve June 1 and June 22, 2020, meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Thao, seconded by Commissioner Broeren, to approve the minutes of June 1 and June 22, 2020. Motion carried.

3. Discussion regarding the responsibilities and authority of the Parks and Recreation Commission as outlined in 2.09(17) of the Municipal Code.

As it appears that the City's Legislative Committee will be reviewing the ordinance regarding the responsibilities of the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Commission will wait to receive direction from the Council on any revision to the ordinance and how that will affect the Commission and its duties. In the meantime, the Commission would like to see updated budget numbers for 2020 and would like to review and approve the proposed 2021 Parks and Recreation budget, per the present ordinance.

4. Update on Rafters baseball.

The season is nearing the end this week; a new lease was signed in January. There were no high school seasons, but did have a Legion group using the field for July and August. There is new fencing and padding put up that the City and Rafters contributed to. Generally, improvements that the Rafters request that have potential to add to Rafters revenue are paid by the Rafters; if the improvement enhances the park for all users, then the City may consider contributing towards the improvements.

5. Update on Aquatic Recreational Center.

The Aquatic Center will be closing for the season Sunday, August 23. Items coming before the Commission will be staffing levels, hours of operations, admission rates, and policies for operations.

6. Bills.

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

7. Staff reports.

Mary provided a written report.

Matt provided a verbal and written report. He noted that the parrot enclosure at the zoo needs structural work; the timbers are rotted off at ground level. The hope is to utilize funds from the Teske endowment for this project. It is estimated to cost approximately \$10-12,000, with work to be done this fall. The splash pad closure will be based on weather, but last year was September 15. The Zoo is set to close on August 30.

8. Adjourn.

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

Dawn Desorcy, Recording Secretary