

CITY OF WISCONSIN RAPIDS
PARKS / RECREATION / BUILDINGS
220 3rd Avenue South, Suite 3, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495, (715) 421-8240
Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes
September 11, 2023

The Parks & Recreation Commission met on Monday, September 11, 2023, at 4:00 p.m., at the Wisconsin Rapids Municipal Zoo, 1911 Gaynor Avenue, Wisconsin Rapids, WI.

1. Call to order.

Commissioner Veneman called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

Members in attendance were Kris Barteck, Mayor Blaser, Craig Broeren, Tom Ekelin, Tom Rayome, Lee Thao, Dean Veneman, and Elizabeth Whelan. Carolynn Martin was absent. Staff present were Dawn Desorcy, Taylor Hale, and Jake Klingforth. Alderperson Dennis Polach was also in attendance.

2. Approve August 14, 2023, meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Mayor Blaser, seconded by Commissioner Rayome, to approve the minutes of August 14, 2023. Motion carried.

3. Update on Aquatics Center.

The Aquatics Center attendance was up this summer, and the facility had fewer closures than last year. Season pass sales were down from last year, but more residents appear to be taking advantage of punch passes. Concession sales increased this year also. There are still some invoices coming in, so numbers are not finalized. Day and season pass pricing will remain the same unless staff feels there should be a change. We will also keep early bird specials for season passes.

4. Update on Zoo for 2023.

The zoo had 18,362 patrons visit this year, which is an average of 221 people per day. Attendance is up from previous years. The prairie dog exhibit is nearly complete; there is minor work to be done yet. This exhibit will open in 2024.

5. Discuss 2024 parks and aquatics budgets.

The 2024 budget was presented to the commission.

6. Select three (3) choices of possible dog park names for the public to vote on from list provided by staff, and allow final name to be chosen based on survey results (survey closes September 19).

The Commission selected the following names as their top 3 choices:

- Rapids Park and Bark Dog Park
- Rapids Barks and Rec Dog Park (shorten to "Rec")
- Rapids Room to Zoom Dog Park

7. Discuss ideas for remaining Teske fund.

The commission viewed current exhibits at the zoo and will discuss possible ideas for the remaining donation from the Teske family at the next meeting.

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8. Bills.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barteck, seconded by Commissioner Thao, to accept the bills. Motion carried.

9. Staff reports.

Dawn and Jake presented reports.

10. Adjourn.

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

Dawn Desorcy, Recording Secretary