

CITY OF WISCONSIN RAPIDS
PARKS / RECREATION / BUILDINGS
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Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes
September 16, 2024

The Parks & Recreation Commission met on Monday, September 16, 2024, at 4 p.m. in the first floor conference room at City Hall, 444 West Grand Avenue, Wisconsin Rapids, WI.

1. Call to order.

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

Commissioners in attendance were Kris Barteck, Jeff Penzkover, Dean Veneman, Rick Wellnitz, Elizabeth Whelan, and Mayor Matt Zacher. Ron Rasmussen, Tom Rayome, and Lee Thao were excused. Staff in attendance were Dawn Desorcy and Jake Klingforth. Also in attendance were Alderperson Dennis Polach, Kevin Fangman, Ken Day and Jake Adams.

2. Approve the August 12, 2024, meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Whelan, seconded by Commissioner Wellnitz, to approve the minutes of August 12, 2024. Motion carried.

3. Aquatics update.

There were more closures than last year, which affected attendance and concessions sales. Overall, both went well despite being closed for so many days. There are still a few bills coming in, so we hope to be able to have final numbers next month.

4. Update on the Legacy Grant for the Zoo.

The Legacy Grant was approved by Finance. Pending Council approval, we hope to move forward on new playground equipment, the river otter exhibit, and making Helen's House a year-round rentable facility.

5. Discussion regarding adding a boat rinse station at the Boles Creek Boat Landing.

This item was requested by community members and brought forward by Commissioner Barteck. There are several options for boat rinse stations available but will depend on the cost we can cover. We hope to apply for a grant next year. This boat landing is well-utilized, so a wash station would be a good addition.

6. 2025 Budget discussion.

There are no major changes to the budget. If the river otters are added at the zoo, there will be a slight increase there. Aquatics water usage is down considerably (\$42,000 to \$15,000) now that the source of the leak was found.

7. Bills.

A motion to approve the bills, totaling \$12,075.83, was made by Commissioner Veneman, seconded by Commissioner Barteck. Motion carried.

8. Staff reports.

Dawn and Jake provided reports.

9. Adjourn.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Penzkover, seconded by Commissioner Whelan. Motion carried.

Dawn Desorcy, Recording Secretary