

Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes

September 19, 2022

The Parks & Recreation Commission met on Monday, September 19, 2022, at 4 p.m. in the first floor conference room at City Hall, 444 West Grand Avenue, Wisconsin Rapids, WI. 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 4:02 p.m.

Commissioners present were Kris Barteck, Mayor Blaser, Craig Broeren, Tom Ekelin, Patrick Gatterman, Tom Rayome, and Dean Veneman. Carolyn Martin and Lee Thao were excused. Staff present were Dawn Desorcy, Nick Dums, and Jake Klingforth. Also attending was Alderperson Dennis Polach.

2. Approve August 8, 2022, meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Mayor Blaser, seconded by Commissioner Barteck, to approve the meeting minutes of August 8, 2022. Motion carried.

3. Review and consider approval of request from Nsight Telecom Company for a 10' wide permanent utility easement along the existing retaining wall on the east side of Robinson Park to install and maintain new fiber optic lines. Nsight is offering a compensation of \$2000 for this permanent utility easement in Robinson Park.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ekelin, seconded by Mayor Blaser, to recommend to allow the 10' wide permanent utility easement along the existing retaining wall on the east side of Robinson Park to install and maintain new fiber optic lines, with no above ground utility structures, and to recommend to the Council that the compensation be at least \$3,217, as valued by the Assessor's Office. Motion carried.

4. Update on Aquatics Center.

Overall admissions were lower than last year; partly due to weather, but likely also due to the facility no longer being brand new. Concessions revenues were consistent with last year. The Aquatics Center closed on August 21, with Dog Day on August 24. Staffing was challenging during the last 2 weeks of operation, and it was necessary to close features to ensure correct staffing. For Dog Day there were 94 dogs registered, and it was a successful event. We will be gathering admittance information to assist in determining next year's hours.

5. Update on Zoo for 2022.

The Zoo was well-attended this summer. The new fox pen and kangaroo exhibits look very nice. We had a part-time gardener there for the season, and she did a great job with the upkeep of the gardens.

6. Update on proposed Dog Park.

We have received approval from the DNR to fill in the ditch that runs through the proposed park, as no wetlands were confirmed. The public works crew may be able to complete this work. We will be able to save some money by completing the small dog park area fencing by completing this work internally using materials from the old dog park, which would bring the fencing cost down to approximately \$60,000. Staff will bring final costs to a future meeting. It was suggested to consider having renderings of a preemptive layout for possible future additions to the park (agility area, covered shelter, benches).

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7. Update on Teske money.

There is \$311,000 remaining. Ideas being considered are an interactive exhibit for prairie dogs and a possible covered picnic area within the zoo.

8. Discuss 2023 parks and aquatics budgets.

The Commission will review and bring back ideas and questions to the next meeting.

9. Bills.

A motion was made by Commissioner Blaser, seconded by Commissioner Gatterman, to approve the bills. Motion carried.

10. Staff reports.

Jake and Dawn presented staff reports.

11. Adjourn.

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

Dawn Desorcy, Recording Secretary