

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

**Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes**

October 11, 2021

A regular meeting of the Wisconsin Rapids Parks & Recreation Commission was held via remote videoconferencing on Monday, October 11, 2021, at 4 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 Veneman called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

Commissioners present in the City Hall Council Chambers were Kris Barteck, Mayor Blaser, Craig Broeren, Tom Ekelin, Tom Rayome, Lee Thao, and Dean Veneman. Patrick Gatterman appeared via videoconference. Carolynn Martin was excused. Staff present in the Council Chambers were Dawn Desorcy, Jake Klingforth, Tyler Mickelson, and Joe Terry. Kyle Kearns appeared via videoconference. Also attending in the Council Chambers was Alderperson Sheri Evanson.

2. Approve August 9, 2021, meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Thao, seconded by Commissioner Broeren, to approve the minutes of August 9, 2021. Motion carried.

3. Select names for public vote for Aquatics Center park area.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ekelin, seconded by Commissioner Thao, that "Witter Community Park" and "Witter Park" be the names that the public may vote on for the name of the Aquatics Center park area. Motion carried.

4. Update on Aquatics Center season.

Winterizing of the pool, splash pad and other areas is complete. Summaries of passes sold, admissions and concessions revenues, and aquatics rentals were distributed.

5. Discuss dog park locations and information.

Mayor Blaser and staff met and determined pros and cons for each location, and would like feedback from the commission. Additional options for locations, including another look at Poplar Springs Park, will be brought to a future meeting.

6. Consider approval for Aquatics Center ice pond warming house hours.

The hours presented are for the warming house to be staffed; the ice pond may be used during park hours. Lights for this area are on until 10 p.m. Due to COVID restrictions last year, this will be the first time the new warming house will be open. A motion was made by Commissioner Broeren, seconded by Mayor Blaser, to approve the hours as presented. Motion carried.

7. Consider approval of 2022 Parks & Recreation and Aquatics budgets.

Jake provided the 2022 budget for Parks & Recreation, including the Aquatics budget. A motion was made by Commissioner Rayome, and seconded by Commissioner Ekelin, that the Public Works Director salary be put back into the Parks budget. Motion carried with a negative vote by Mayor Blaser. A motion was made by Commissioner Broeren, seconded by Commissioner Ekelin, to approve budgets as amended, and forward to the Common Council, with a caveat that the budget may be changed if the structure changes. Motion carried with a negative vote by Mayor Blaser.

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8. Consider approval of Outlay projects for 2022.

A motion was made by Commissioner Broeren, seconded by Commissioner Thao, to approve the items as presented. Motion carried. (18 garbage cans, \$9,835; hand dryers at Lyon and Robinson Parks, \$2,100; automatic locks at Sand Lot and Lyon Parks, \$10,000; and Ben Hansen kayak launch, \$5,000.)

9. Update on Teske Grant money remaining and plan for use.

There is some limitation with the animals available to rent. A kangaroo exhibit would need to be in a different location with an 8-foot fence, concrete, and a shed similar to those for the other animals. Staff will develop a plan for what the money will be used for and bring it back to a future meeting.

10. Bills.

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

11. Staff reports.

Jake presented both his and Mary's reports.

12. Adjourn.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rayome, seconded by Commissioner Broeren, to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Dawn Desorcy, Recording Secretary