

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

**Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes**

September 14, 2020

A regular meeting of the Wisconsin Rapids Parks & Recreation Commission was held via remote videoconferencing on Monday, September 14, 2020, 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 Broeren called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

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

2. Approve August 17, 2020, meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Mayor Blaser, seconded by Commissioner Ekelin, to approve the minutes of August 17, 2020. Motion carried.

3. Presentation from Kyle Kearns regarding options for development of updated Park Plan.

There is a need for a new plan, as the most recent plan was from 2016. Kyle shared 3 options to develop a new Park Plan: 1) Perform an update in-house, 2) Partner with North Central Regional Planning Commission, or 3) Create an RFP/hire consultant. Kyle shared the pros and cons of each option. It was suggested that the new document be a "living document" to be updated annually, which Kyle will ensure takes place.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rayome, seconded by Mayor Blaser, that an RFP be developed for hiring a consultant to develop a Park & Recreation Plan not to exceed \$20,000. Motion carried.

4. Review proposals and select a contractor for tree planting this fall to complete the \$50,000 Urban Forestry Grant.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ekelin, seconded by Commissioner Barteck, to hire Arborvantage, for the services and materials per their quote of \$7,970; and to also to spend an additional \$2,030 (the balance of the \$10,000 grant) with Arborvantage, as City staff may determine. Motion carried.

5. Update and possible action on status of the Skate Park at Witter Field due to recent vandalism.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ekelin, seconded by Commissioner Barteck, to reopen the skate park when repairs are complete, with the addition of utilizing a port-a-potty at the skate park, and aquatic center restrooms open from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. daily. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rayome, seconded by Commissioner Barteck, for staff to work with the Police Department to develop a policy associated with vandalism and damages at the skate park and aquatics center to be brought back to the commission. Motion carried.

6. Review Policy for Non-Profit Rentals of Park Shelters and determine if policy is applicable to the Rapids Room and other Aquatics reservable areas.

This policy will be reviewed at the same time as the other Aquatics Center information.

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7. Update on Zoo outlay projects.  
The bear pen rebuild was our spring project. A possible future project for this fall may include painting the pond. We may do other projects as well depending on weather.
8. Preliminary discussion on parks & recreation budget for 2021.  
Matt will be meeting with the Mayor and Finance Director next week to review preliminary budget numbers for review at the October meeting.
9. Update on Aquatic Recreational Center.  
Currently working with Badger Pool on winterizing. Still putting cabanas into storage; should be wrapped up this week. Next up will be developing our plan for the skating pond.
10. Bills.  
A motion was made by Commissioner Rayome, seconded by Commissioner Ekelin, to approve the bills. Motion carried.
11. Staff reports.  
Mary and Matt provided verbal and written reports.
12. Adjourn.  
A motion was made by Commissioner Rayome, seconded by Mayor Blaser, to adjourn. Motion carried.

Dawn Desorcy, Recording Secretary