

CITY OF WISCONSIN RAPIDS
PARKS / RECREATION / BUILDINGS
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Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes
October 14, 2024

The Parks & Recreation Commission met on Monday, October 14, 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, Lee Thao, Dean Veneman, and Elizabeth Whelan. Mayor Matt Zacher, Ron Rasmussen, and Rick Wellnitz were excused. Staff in attendance were Dawn Desorcy and Jake Klingforth. Also in attendance were Susan Faust and Barb Scanlan.

2. Approve the September 16, 2024, meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Thao, seconded by Commissioner Barteck, to approve the minutes of September 16, 2024. Motion carried.

3. Aquatics update.

Concessions profits were approximately \$20,000. In total, \$269,000 was brought in; projections were at \$280,000, but this is positive considering the challenging summer weather. The facility is now fully winterized.

4. Discuss Aquatics Center day pass rates, season pass rates, and early bird specials.

It was suggested to run the early bird special for season passes longer, so the special will run through May 15, 2025. Day pass and season pass rates will remain the same for 2025.

5. Update on the Zoo playground.

We were awarded a discount from the playground cost, but installation will need to go out for public bid. The cost for pour and play and installation is approximately \$50,000. We will be ordering the playground soon, with the installation next spring/summer. Commissioner Whelan suggested that benches be placed around the outside perimeter of the playground.

Work on winterizing Helen's House will begin now that rental season is over. Gas lines will be installed for Helen's House and river otters. River otter exhibit should be complete next year.

6. Bills.

A motion was made by Commissioner Thao, seconded by Commissioner Barteck, to approve the bills in the amount of \$7,915.48. Motion carried.

7. Staff reports.

Dawn and Jake provided reports.

It was suggested that dog park volunteers and activities be discussed at the next meeting.

8. Adjourn.

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

Dawn Desorcy, Recording Secretary