

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

Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes

May 10, 2021

A regular meeting of the Wisconsin Rapids Parks & Recreation Commission was held via remote videoconferencing on Monday, May 10, 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 Broeren called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Commissioners present in the City Hall Council Chambers were Mayor Blaser, Craig Broeren, Tom Ekelin, and Dean Veneman. Appearing via videoconference were Kris Barteck, Patrick Gatterman, Tom Rayome, and Lee Thao. Staff present in the Council Chambers were Dawn Desorcy, Jake Klingforth, Tyler Mickelson, and Mary Wolosek. Carolynn Martin was excused.

2. Approve March 15, 2021, meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Veneman, seconded by Commissioner Rayome, to approve the minutes of March 15, 2021. Motion carried.

3. Election of officers.

Commissioner Gatterman nominated Dean Veneman for chairperson and requested that nominations be closed and that a unanimous ballot be cast for Dean Veneman as chairperson, this was seconded by Commissioner Ekelin. Motion carried. There being no objection, Veneman was voted chairperson.

Commissioner Veneman nominated Craig Broeren for vice-chairperson and requested that nominations be closed and that a unanimous ballot be cast for Craig Broeren as vice-chairperson, this was seconded by Mayor Blaser. Motion carried. There being no objection, Broeren was voted vice-chairperson.

4. Election of Parks & Recreation Commission member to the Planning Commission.

Because of an ordinance change, there is no longer a Park and Recreation member on the Planning Commission. Lee Thao has been serving as a citizen member on the Planning Commission, and Mayor Blaser will be reappointing him next month.

5. Discussion and possible action on changing closing date of the Wisconsin Rapids Municipal Zoo to Labor Day (instead of last Sunday in August).

A motion was made by Commissioner Rayome, seconded by Commissioner Broeren, that the Wisconsin Rapids Municipal Zoo remain open until Labor Day. Motion carried.

6. Discussion and approval of Mead Field baseball fence renovation.

The fencing at the baseball field along 14th Avenue does not allow for high school games, so we would like to replace the fencing for a cost of \$18,450, plus \$12,600, for protective screening (to prevent damage to cars parked on the road). This change will allow for more teams to play on the field in the future. Also the north tennis courts are no longer usable, and we would propose removing them and placing new courts closer to the Mead Splash Pad.

A motion was made by Commissioner Broeren, seconded by Mayor Blaser, to get further estimates and schematics to move forward on this plan in the fall. Motion carried.

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7. Update on Wisconsin Rapids Recreation Complex naming plan.

A letter was sent out to grade schools to encourage participation from children, a request for a name suggestion was included in our parks survey, and boxes will be placed at the Aquatics Center and Parks & Recreation office for name idea submissions. We hope to have voting by the community for the new name in August of 2021.

8. Update on security cameras at Aquatics Center playground, splash pad and skate park areas.

The estimate from Per Mar is \$5,400 with installation by Current Technologies for \$1,900. Views of the skate park, aquatics center playground/splash pad areas will be visible. A motion was made by Commissioner Broeren, seconded by Commissioner Ekelin, to spend \$7,300 on security cameras and installation at Aquatics Center playground, splash pad, and skate park areas. Motion carried.

9. Update on Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Ayres feels they are on schedule as planned. The survey will close on May 15; so far, we have had 338 people complete the survey.

10. Update on Parks & Recreation Commission Ad Hoc Committee.

First meeting was a discussion on how things operate currently and how we would like to see things operate. City Attorney is going to mock up the existing ordinance and we will build from there. The next meeting will include Jake to discuss operations and Tim Desorcy to discuss funding and room tax allocation and how that is brought into the Commission.

11. Update on renovations at the Zoo.

Everything is finished other than some site restoration; very happy with work staff did.

Tom Ekelin requested an update on the Teske Grant at the next meeting with suggestions for what will be done next.

12. Bills.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ekelin, seconded by Mayor Blaser, to approve the bills, totaling \$27,817.26. Motion carried.

13. Staff reports.

Mary and Jake provided written and verbal reports.

14. Adjourn.

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

Dawn Desorcy, Recording Secretary