

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

June 27, 2019

Room 204, Government Center

Members Present: Keith Kern, Gene Rosburg, Brittany Berrens Markgren, Elizabeth Norén, Ruth Ludwig, Jemal Broussard

Members Excused: Tom Wondolkowski

Also Present: Linda Cadotte, Angie Harker, Russ Behlings, Sue Wegener, Henry Campbell, Gerry Olson, Maria Lockwood

Introductions were made as this was Commissioner Jemal Broussard's first meeting.

1. Approval of May 23, 2019 meeting minutes

MOTION by Ludwig, seconded by Norén, and carried to approve Parks and Recreation Commission minutes of May 23, 2019.

2. Bike loop trails off Millennium Trail

Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director Linda Cadotte noted that a walkthrough of the proposed bike trails was done yesterday. Henry Campbell (who had presented at the last commission meeting) provided more information on his project. He indicated that when he presented his project at school, he collected emails from about 15 people who would be interested in volunteering with the trail build and his friends and family are also recruiting volunteers. He presented his cost estimate to build the trail at approximately \$3,290, but not to exceed \$5,000. These costs include purchasing the needed tools versus borrowing them from a group such as COGGS. He listed the different tools that would be needed and indicated that a chainsaw and operator from the city crew may be needed as well. Gravel would be another cost, but Campbell felt that no more than \$1500 would be needed for that. Commissioners asked questions about maintenance of the trail and who that would fall to. Gerry Olson of COGGS spoke and indicated that if the trail is built correctly, very little maintenance is needed. Park Superintendent Russ Behlings spoke about adopting trail standards prior to building the trail. US Forest Service standards could be adapted and Olson indicated COGGS would also share theirs. COGGS would potentially be willing to help with trail building and maintenance after they finish their cross-town trail in Duluth. Cadotte indicated the City's Environmental Regulatory Coordinator Darienne McNamara did a quick map review and there did not appear to be any significant wetland issues, however she would take a more in-depth look prior to moving forward with the build. Winter uses were discussed and included possible fat tire biking and snow shoeing. Campbell stated it would be a multi-use trail. His goal is to start constructing the ¼ mile orange loop this season if possible. There was a question and answer period.

MOTION by Kern, seconded by Norén, and carried to approve spending up to \$5,000 to allow Henry Campbell to adapt a .4K trail, with trail standards as set by Parks, Recreation & Forestry Director Cadotte and Park Superintendent Behlings.

3. North 21st Street Boat Launch lighting

Cadotte recapped the prior discussion on the lighting and distributed a document from the police department outlining the call history to the boat launch area over the past two years. There were minimal calls, however it was agreed that individuals often do not call the police and sometimes thefts, etc. do not get reported. There had been concern amongst commissioners about removing trees to allow for lighting installation. Some commissioners indicated they visited the area and were no longer concerned about the trees that would need to be removed. There was a discussion about overhead lines versus underground and it was noted that it will be important to make certain that city heavy equipment will fit under overhead lines.

MOTION by Kern, seconded by Rosburg, and carried to approve the installation of two lights at the North 21st Street Boat Launch for \$5,600.

4. Playground surfacing – Billings, Heritage and Harbor View Parks

Cadotte explained that engineered wood fiber (EWF) has been purchased for 8 parks that are currently non-compliant and have sand surfacing (this EWF purchase was approved at the May 21st City Council meeting). Harbor View Park will receive rubber mulch and in Billings and Veteran's Parks EWF will be freshened this summer. Cadotte indicated that she has a memo going to the City Council next week regarding three quotes that were received for installation of the EWF. Quotes came in higher than anticipated and she is recommending the Council waive placing this out for formal bids, so that the EWF can be installed this summer to bring the playgrounds into compliance.

MOTION by Kern, seconded by Rosburg, and carried to receive and file the playground surfacing update.

5. Park signage

Cadotte shared photos of the various park signage. It is the goal to make signage consistent throughout the city. After discussion, the commission agreed that their preference was for the concrete pillar signage, which is currently installed at 18 Oaks and Wade Bowl. The commission was flexible on the color to best match the park color schemes. New signs will be made to replace those at Wade Bowl, Webster Dream Park and Kelly Park this summer.

MOTION by Kern, seconded by Rosburg, and carried to approve moving on with updating park signage with the concrete signs.

6. CDBG 2020 grant application

Cadotte provided CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) maps and reviewed these with the commission along with the CDBG funding process. She indicated that the Kelly Park update this year is being complete with CDBG funds. There was a discussion about focusing on Bear Creek Park for 2020. This is a large, busy park adjacent to the Osaugie Trail which includes a much used ballfield, pavilion and playground and the ATV/UTV trail parking lot. The animal shelter is also located here and the parking area will become increasingly busy when the Bear Creek/Wisconsin Point Trail opens. Suggestions were made to upgrade the playground/tot lot equipment, add bathrooms and pave the parking lot.

MOTION by Kern, seconded by Ludwig, and carried to move forward with bathrooms, parking lot and updates to the tot area and other improvements at Bear Creek Park that fit within the budget.

7. Parks, Recreation & Forestry Director's Report

Cadotte provided an update on the following:

- Disc Golf Course Municipal Forest: The disc golf group indicated the first seven pins are looking really good and the course should be ready for its first mowing soon. This may be done after the 4th of July, depending on weather and park staff availability. Pins could be installed a month from now.
- Barker's Island Beach Restoration Project: The project is expected to be completed with the final punch list on Tuesday. There will be additional tree planting thanks to the CN grant that ESD partnered on. This planting will occur in the area where the buckthorn was removed, once site prep is completed. There will be an official ribbon cutting for the project on Tuesday, July 16th with the Superior Young Professionals and a recognition ceremony during Lake Superior Day on July 21st.
- Zagster Bike Share: Cadotte logged in to the Zagster website to provide an update to the commission on the program and statistics. She explained that she recently learned that we had 15 bikes out (out of 20) and subsequently the fleet has been short, as some bikes were in need of repair. She contacted Zagster who indicated that fluctuations in bike fleet availability are normal and shouldn't affect ridership, however, it had been noted that some stations have had zero bikes. It has also been observed that most bikes end up being docked at UWS. A membership recruitment was done last week at UWS by Parks and Rec employee Tom White. Cadotte indicated that a non-profit group in Duluth is looking at the Zagster program and there could be a community share system in the future. There would be pros and cons to this, but it is in the exploratory stage at this time.
- Summer Playground Program: The program is underway and our grant partners are participating. One partner that is having difficulty offering a partner activity is the Challenge Center. They offered tours of their greenhouse, however they can take less than 10 kids per tour and there are concerns about bees and stings in the greenhouse. Suggestions offered by commissioners would be having the center's clients go bowling with the kids, join another activity or offer produce and/or perhaps a cooking demonstration.
- Bayside Sounds Concerts: The first concert of the year was held at Wade Bowl (this is the first concert held at this park) and attendance was greater than 150. The concert at Webster Dream Park this week saw high attendance as well. We have some new sponsors this year, with the title sponsor being Superior Choice Credit Union. A number of new bands were booked this year as well.

Kern announced the meeting adjourned at: 6:23 p.m.

The next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting will be held Thursday, July 25th at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted to the Council Meeting of July 16, 2019.