

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
September 19, 2019
Room 204, Government Center

Members Present: Keith Kern, Gene Rosburg, Brittany Berrens Markgren, Elizabeth Norén, Tom Wondolkowski

Members Excused: Jemal Broussard, Ruth Ludwig

Also Present: Linda Cadotte, Angie Harker, Russ Behlings, Brent Fennessey, Shelley Nelson, Charmaine Swan, Kelly Schoen, Terry Massoglia, Tanzeem Iqbal Ali, Dan Olson, Mayor Jim Paine, Jenny Van Sickle, Craig Sutherland (via phone), Caitlin Knoll, Tom White.

1. Approval of August 22, 2019 meeting minutes.

MOTION by Rosburg, seconded by Wondolkowski, and carried to approve the Parks and Recreation Commission minutes of August 22, 2019.

2. Held in Committee from the August 22, 2019 meeting: Tobacco Free Parks – draft ordinance. Councilor Fennessey explained the revisions that were made to the ordinance since the last commission meeting. He indicated the native ceremonial language was revised (to mirror school district language). He stated that he and Councilor Ludwig met to designate smoking areas in each park as the commissioners requested, but it proved to be challenging and they decided that only Billings Park Civic Center should have a designated smoking area. He went on to say that for festivals and park reservations, smoking areas could be set up by the Parks and Recreation department for a fee. The floor was opened up for comments and members of the public, City Councilors, the Mayor, Commissioners and a representative from the American Lung Association all offered their thoughts/suggestions. Some spoke in opposition to the ordinance and some in favor. There was support voiced for a total ban on tobacco and other suggestions for exemptions/variances for certain parks/property and the suggestion (as was made at the last meeting) to consider setting up smoking areas in the parks. There appeared to be a consensus about prohibiting smoking near playground equipment. The commission discussed referring the matter to the Public Safety Committee or a Committee of the Whole meeting. Ultimately, the commission decided to schedule a special Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to take the matter up again.

MOTION by Kern, seconded by Berrens Markgren, and carried to table the Tobacco Free Parks – draft ordinance to a special meeting solely to discuss the topic.

3. Relocation of gate at 44th Avenue East.

Cadotte explained that the gate relocation was approved at the Public Works Committee meeting last evening, however she pointed out issues with property ownership and spoke about the ice racing events that are held in that area each winter and how this would affect the permitting process for those. She recommended clarification on ownership before taking action on this item.

MOTION by Kern, seconded by Wondolkowski, and carried to table the relocation of the gate at 44th Avenue East.

4. Review of cross-country ski pass fees.

The commission felt it was appropriate to keep the cross-country ski pass fees as is.

MOTION by Rosburg, seconded by Wondolkowski, and carried to keep cross-country ski pass fees as is.

MOTION by Berrens Markgren, seconded by Kern, and carried to suspend the rules and move item #6 up on the agenda.

6. 2019 Summer Playground Program & Bayside Sounds Concert Series recap - Caitlin Knoll. Commissioners received the PowerPoint presentation via email. Program Coordinator Caitlin Knoll gave a brief recap of the 2019 Summer Playground Program & Bayside Sounds Concert Series. It was noted that Central Park was a new site this year for the playground program as work was being done in Gouge Park (the former site). Knoll indicated she received positive feedback from parents about having the program at Central Park, attendance was comparable and she would support making Central Park the permanent site versus Gouge Park. She stated that the Bayside Sounds Concert Series was a successful one as we continued to move the series "Around Town" to different neighborhood parks. Generators worked in the parks without electricity.

MOTION by Wondolkowski, seconded by Norén, and carried to receive and file the 2019 Summer Playground Program & Bayside Sounds Concert Series recap

Chair Kern left the meeting at 6:25 and Vice-Chair Berrens Markgren took over chairing the meeting. There was still a quorum.

5. 2019 Volunteer and Adopt-A-Program recap – Tom White. Commissioners received the PowerPoint presentation via email. Volunteer and Events Coordinator Tom White gave a brief recap of the 2019 Adopt Program, volunteer projects and special events. He reported that it was a successful season with increased park adoptions and the number of volunteer groups that offered their time to the City.

MOTION by Rosburg, seconded by Norén, and carried to receive and file the 2019 Volunteer and Adopt-A-Program recap.

7. Parks, Recreation & Forestry Director's Report
Cadotte indicated that the installation of the Webster Dream Park pour in place surfacing will begin next week (the work had been delayed by the playground company). She shared the final design for the Kelly Park improvements and highlighted different features of the new playground, which will include outdoor musical equipment. There are decisions yet to be made on what type of mulch to use in the areas that are not immediately adjacent to the new equipment. She informed the Commission that the Wisconsin Point Dune Restoration and Access Improvement Project ribbon cutting will be held tomorrow, September 20th from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the lighthouse parking lot on the Point.

Berrens Markgren announced the meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

The next regular Parks & Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 24th at 5:00 p.m. A special meeting regarding the Tobacco Free Parks draft ordinance will be scheduled.

Minutes submitted to the Council Meeting of October 1, 2019.