

Regular Meeting.
Parks Commission May 5, 2018 - 4:30 p.m.
City Hall

Present: T. Krohn, C. Martinson, T. Urbanski, J. Fryc, M. Krick, B. Wyman

Absent: J. Badger

Staff: C. Peterson, L. Peterson, K. Stedman, A. Chalberg, L. Anderson

Others: Bill Hoffman, Neil Nemmers, Barb Suominen, Liz Brenner, Nancy Nelson, Tom Tyman, Al Moench, Linda Dean, Gary Sluben, Ken Hanson, Chris Jenkins, Jean Johnson

MINUTES

The minutes of the April 2, 2018 regular meeting were presented. Motion by Fryc and 2nd by Martinson to approve, motion carried 5-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE, OTHER COMMENTS

None

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

Commissioners Update/Other

Bill Hoffman representing the pickle ball group brought forward a request for a dedicated pickle ball court with nets. The group currently has had pickle ball lines added on the eastern most tennis court at Churchill school and provide their own nets to play. They also play at the Armory and have added some time for beginners to learn. Bill states that it is the fastest growing game in the country; with all the tennis courts already in Cloquet, the group would like to be afforded the same opportunity as tennis players and are asking for only one court. Another group member added that with only this group owning a net, others in the community who might be interested cannot play. Local schools have added it to the curriculum which supports the fact that there is growing interest. A permanent court would serve a wide range of ages and abilities. If a permanent court would be possible, the group would like to be involved in the planning.

Staff response: Budget planning begins in June and some research into costs will be prepared and brought forward for consideration.

Les Peterson presented a request sent by Sarah Buhs of the Fire District seeking approval for the placement of a Lifejacket Storage Box near the boat launch at Spafford Park. There would be no cost to the City and the Fire District would maintain the box and the life jackets. Staff discussed the look of the box, the intended use for boaters with customized signage to state boaters only as the area is posted for no swimming, the location of the box and liability. Caleb asked if perhaps the City should invest in a concrete pad to secure the post of the box.

Motion by Urbanski and 2nd by Krick to approve the placement of a Lifejacket Storage Box with a concrete pad provided by the City, motion carried 5-1.

Commissioner Krohn provided a video of the new Mountain Bike Trail in Pine Valley which was taken during a test run. So far the trail looks good.

City Staff Reports

Pine Valley Trail: With the Mountain Bike Trail under construction we are still 3-4 weeks out until completion at the upper loop. A subcontractor will complete the lower loop. Staff states that there have been numerous inquiries regarding the opening. The trail will not be open to the public until at least midsummer. After the trail work is complete, the trail will need several weeks to rest before the public uses it.

Skatepark: The Council awarded the bid to Boldt who is now working on a contract. There will be a pre-construction meeting on May 14th at 11:00 a.m. Boldt has 90 days from the date of the award to complete the work.

Braun Park Scoreboards: A request for new scoreboards was received from the Cloquet Youth Baseball/Softball Association as two of the existing boards were not functional. Staff has worked with Parson's to identify the problem and Staff has contacted the manufacturer to locate parts. It is hopeful that a cost-effective fix has been found.

Dunlap Island: Broadway roadwork was begun last week with some removal of pavement, street lighting and signage installation. Electrical work and then the final concrete will occur. The company installing the playground will need to complete their work and provide the City with a final safety inspection before the park can be opened. The playground is blocked off until then. Yesterday a water leak was fixed at one of the hydrants nearby. Installation of a living fence as part of this project had been eliminated due to the rocky nature of the area which was slated to be used.

Maintenance Activities: The park crew are working on all the parks. Athletic park is good to go and currently in use. Chemicals have been received for the Pond and opening is approximately one month away.

Commissioner Krohn questioned the trash stored behind the timer's shed in Pine Valley and offered to remove it. Les Peterson will have staff pick it up.

Commissioner Fryc asked if the gate could be moved back (east) on the north channel road of the St. Louis River and the road be maintained again. The gate was originally moved west due to heavy dumping of household garbage. As part of the Riverfront Development, a paved parking lot is planned on the west end near Highway 33 and the public will only be allowed in on foot.

Commissioner Krohn asked if it would be possible to clear the walking loop below the Chamber of Commerce during the winter. Staff states that it may be possible to do so when the equipment used for clearing the ice ribbon at Dunlap is trailered in.

ACTION ITEMS

None

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting to be held June 4, 2018 - 4:30 p.m. at Dunlap Island.

On motion duly carried by a unanimous yea vote of all members present, the Parks Commission adjourned.

Secretary