

**CLOQUET PARKS COMMISSION
AGENDA**

**City Hall
Monday, April 6, 2015 4:30 p.m.**

ACTION TAKEN

1. Call to Order.

2. Approval of Minutes.

- a. March 2, 2015, Regular Commission Meeting.
(Additions, deletions, or corrections)

3. Announcements, Agenda Adjustments, Correspondence, and Other Comments.

4. Information and Reports.

- a. Community Ed Report –Ruth
- Presentation – Adult Recreation and Aquatics Programs
- b. City Staff Report – Les/Caleb
- Riverfront Plan.
 - Pinehurst/Sunnyside Project.
 - Maintenance Activities.
- c. Commissioners Update/Other.

5. Action Items.

- a. Skatepark Letter of Support.
(Recommendation Requested)

6. Future Items.

- Next Regular Meeting (May 4, 2015 – City Hall)

7. Adjourn.

Regular Meeting.
Parks Commission March 2, 2015 4:30 p.m.
City Hall

Present: Badger, Urbanski, Wyman, Louhela.
Absent: Roberts, Krohn, Stowell.
Staff: C. Peterson, L. Peterson.
Others: L. Wilkinson, R. Reeves.

MINUTES

The minutes of the January 5, 2015 regular meeting were presented and approved.

COMMUNITY ED REPORT

- Presentation was given regarding current youth programming.
- Update provided on Fit & Fun Sundays.
- Overview of planned 2015 Beach Advertising.

CITY STAFF REPORT

- Staff asked for comments regarding a proposal to remove the required Park Commission seat from the Community Ed Advisory Board in the next contract.
- Overview was provided of the 2015 Park Projects and their schedules.
- Maintenance Activities
 - Review of staffing and heating system issues at the Sunnyside warming house.
 - Trail was groomed for ski class to be held at Sunnyside Park.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting to be held April 6, 2015, 4:30 p.m. at City Hall.

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



Secretary



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

1307 Cloquet Avenue; Cloquet, MN 55720
Phone: (218) 879-6758 Fax: (218) 879-6555
Street - Water - Sewer - Engineering - Park
www.ci.cloquet.mn.us

REQUEST FOR ACTION

To: Park Commission
From: Caleb Peterson, Assistant City Engineer
Date: December 31, 2014

ITEM DESCRIPTION: Skatepark Letter of Support.

Proposed Action

Staff recommends the Park Commission **MOVE TO APPROVE THE ATTACHED LETTER OF SUPPORT REQUESTING A PARTNERSHIP WITH SCHOOL DISTRICT IN ORDER TO LOCATE A NEW SKATEPARK ON THE GROUNDS OF THE PROPOSED MIDDLE SCHOOL.**

Background/Overview

At the joint Commission and Council meeting a review of the skatepark location matrix generated a new proposal to consider location of the proposed skatepark on the new middle school grounds. While past discussions have centered on properties already owned by the City, the idea does present many benefits including:

- Proximity to the target audience.
- Location in a highly visible and active space.
- Separation from the surrounding neighborhood.

Preliminary conversations about the concept with local skateboarder and the District have generated positive feedback however with the School focused on building plans it's not feasible to expect this will be a priority for them without further feedback from the community. In order to ensure the proposal receives serious consideration, staff is recommending the Commission consider a letter support to School District offering to partner financially in a skatepark project at the new middle school.

Policy Objectives

Policy 7.1: Partnerships shall be sought to make unique opportunities available to the community and allow for facilities and programs that would otherwise be difficult to achieve by the city alone.

Financial/Budget/Grant Considerations

N/A.

Supporting Documentation Attached

Letter of Support to School District.



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April 6, 2015

Mr. Ken Scarbrough, Superintendent
Cloquet Public Schools ISD#94
302 - 14th Street
Cloquet, MN 55720

RE: Cloquet Skatepark Partnership Opportunities

Dear Mr. Scarbrough:

For the past four years the City of Cloquet's Park Commission in coordination with the City Council has been working with a group of local youth interested in bringing a skatepark facility back to Cloquet. While the concept has garnered broad support from the Commission and Council, finding an ideal home for the facility in one of our existing parks has proven difficult.

At a recent joint meeting of the Council and Commission a discussion was held regarding potential sites for a new skatepark. It was at that meeting that a member of the public raised the idea of including a skatepark on the grounds of the new middle school. While we understand the challenges of such a partnership, the District and City have a long history of shared facilities providing great benefits to our community and resulting in considerable cost savings for both entities. It is in this spirit that we write you today, requesting the District give consideration to once again partnering with the City of Cloquet in order to fully explore the feasibility of locating a new skatepark within the new middle school grounds.

Given our past experience with the skatepark and the guidance of multiple design professionals, we see the following factors as crucial to the success of any skatepark location:

Existing Infrastructure - Selecting a location that is already equipped with rest rooms, parking, water fountains, and other amenities will undoubtedly have a great effect on the final costs of the project.

Visibility/Area Activity - A location that creates opportunities for passive observation will discourage bad behaviors and other possible problems. If the proposed location is near well-used roadways, schools, or parks, it will more easily allow for routine supervision and the presence of law enforcement.

Proximity to Users – Ultimately the success of any park improvement is dependent on its use. The primary target audience for a skatepark does not drive so a location that is safely accessible by pedestrians is critical.

It is for these reasons we believe the new middle school grounds may in fact be an ideal location to bring skateboarding back to Cloquet's youth.

Cloquet Skatepark Partnership
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To date, the City has verbally committed up to \$100,000 towards construction of this project. In partnership with the local skatepark club, the Park Commission also funded half the cost of a study providing professionally designed concept plans and cost estimates. Those documents have since been used by the club throughout the community in an active fundraising and public relations campaign.

After four years of hard work, we believe the youth of Cloquet have shown their commitment to making this project a successful reality. We write you today in support of their efforts. Requesting the District give serious consideration how a skatepark may work within your existing plans.

We would be more than happy to meet with you and discuss this proposal in greater detail. Any questions or comments can be directed to Caleb Peterson, Assistant City Engineer at 879-6758. We thank you for your consideration and look forward to our continued partnership serving the citizens of Cloquet.

Sincerely,

The City of Cloquet Park Commission
Tom Urbanski, Chair

cc Brian Fritsinger
City Council