

Regular Meeting.  
Parks Commission June 3, 2019 - 4:30 p.m.  
City Hall

Present: C. Martinson, J. Badger, J. Fryc, M. Krick, T. Krohn, T. Urbanski  
Absent: J. Anderson  
Staff: C. Peterson, K. Stedman, A. Chalberg, L. Anderson, T. Johnson, J. Anderson  
Others: R. Reeves, K. Kolodge, E. Blesener

### **MINUTES**

The minutes of the April 1, 2019 regular meeting were presented. Motion by Krick and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Martinson to approve, motion carried 4-0.

### **AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS**

Officer Eric Blesener was present to discuss the operations and issues at the new skatepark. He has another meeting and must leave as soon as possible, therefor this item is moved to the top of the agenda.

### **SKATEPARK OPERATIONS:**

Officer Blesener, the School Resource Officer was present to discuss activities at the skatepark. He states that this is a unique situation, it's a youth program without supervision. The call report provide by Interim Chief Carey Ferrell is just a brief snapshot of the activities that have been reported. Officer Blesener, hears more from the students about the real issues. Although most kids treat is fairly well, there has been some theft, bullying, fighting, bad language, vaping, and chemical use. K. Stedman of the Park Department reports that excessive trash can be a problem as well. These were some of the concerns ten years ago when the discussion began for this current park. Officer Blesener reported the methods 3rd Lair, a skatepark in the cities uses to curtail any unwanted activity. They charge for use of the facility to keep the numbers manageable, have contests and lessons etc. to engage the youth. The Cloquet Skatepark has signage with rules and contact information for reporting crime as well as camera's installed. To get ahead of what could be a growing problem the Commissioners and staff discussed strategies. The skatepark is a welcome addition to the City for the youth and guiding them now could create a desirable culture. Direction includes the following:

- Collect more data, PD call outs as well as anonymous student and parent reports.
- Involve the users, a flyer inviting them to the next meeting will be distributed by Commissioner Martinson. Hold the next meeting at the skatepark which provides an adult presence.
- Staff will reach out to some of the original lobbyists for the skatepark for input and involvement.
- Staff will contact Interim Chief Farrell for additional presence at the park and will contact the Fond Du Lac Tribal and Community College Law Enforcement staff to ask about volunteer students who may need public service hours.
- Commissioners and staff to provide more adult random visits to the park.

### **COMMUNITY ED REPORT**

R. Reeves asks that the Commission consider closing the tubing hill. It has been difficult to staff due to the hit and miss opportunities to open. Lack of snow or icy conditions can create dangerous conditions as well. The consensus of the Commissioners was to close the tubing hill. It will be written out of the next contract.

### **COMMISSIONERS UPDATE / PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Commissioner Krohn discussed the bidding schedule for Pine Valley Trail Phase II. He reported the status of monies collected for the Coastal Program grant that expires in fall of 2020. Staff explained the need to solicit bids this summer to ensure a contractor for next fall.

Motion by Urbanski and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fryc to recommend that the City Council authorize bidding for Phase II of the Pine Valley Trail, motion carried 6-0.

Commissioner Krick brought up the condition of the trees in the Disc Golf course. Some clean-up is needed. Commissioner Krohn asked about the status of the trail lights in Pine Valley, K. Stedman reports they will be shutting them off. He also reported trash along the river front (north east side) and west side of the Chamber. There is also an area under the bridge that is washing out. He then mentioned some areas that require fill on the bike trail and Pine Valley Trail. Commissioner Urbanski offered to round up a crew to take care of it. Commissioner Krick added that some brush needs to be removed as well. Discussion ensued regarding the brush and garbage under the ski jump. If the crew could separate the garbage, the tin, and the brush, the street crew will pick it up to dispose of it.

### **CITY STAFF REPORT**

#### **PARK APPLE TREES:**

Staff brought a request from a citizen to plant apple trees in one of the parks. This citizen is an advocate of pollinating trees and has a program whereby he does the planting for participants. In turn the fruit would be made available to the public. Commissioners feel that this program or other plantings that foster pollination are desirable and should be considered.

#### **PICKLE BALL SCHEDULE:**

Staff advise that the contractor for the new pickle ball courts has been retained and may be here as early as this week to restripe, install permanent nets and windscreens.

#### **CIP & BUDGET:**

Staff provided a copy of the CIP and the Budget for future planning purposes.

#### **MAINTENANCE:**

Staff has been busy with park rentals, especially at Dunlap Island. Softball is up to three evenings per week at Pinehurst.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

- a. A fee Waiver Request for the Bike Trail Fundraiser was discussed.

Motion by Urbanski and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fryc to approve the waiver of the park fee for a Bike Trail Fundraiser, motion carried 6-0.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting to be held Monday July 1 - 4:30 p.m. at Athletic Park.

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

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Secretary