

Regular Meeting.

Parks Commission December 2, 2019 - 4:30 p.m.

City Hall

Present: C. Martinson, T. Krohn, T. Urbanski, J. Badger

Absent: J. Anderson, M. Krick, J. Fryc

Staff: C. Peterson, T, Johnson

Others: K. Ripp, R. Reeves, K. Kolodge

MINUTES

The minutes of the October 7, 2019 regular meeting were presented. Motion by Urbanski and 2nd by Martinson to approve, motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ken Ripp of the Cloquet Ski Club spoke about issues with rope tow serving the jumps and inquired about allowing the ski club to open the former tubing hill for downhill ski on weekends. He stated the club currently has 54 youth signed up for the winter season making the Cloquet Club one of the largest in the upper Midwest.

COMMISSIONERS UPDATE

Commissioner Krohn discussed a need to form a central 501c3 organization which could be utilized by multiple youth associations and park users for fundraising related to potential park improvements.

COMMUNITY ED REPORT

R. Reeves distributed a copy of newly published Lumber Log and highlighted a few planned events at Dunlap Island over the winter season. A year-end report was given for the Beach at Pinehurst. Overall revenues and operations expenses were cost neutral for the season. Cool wet weather resulted in minimal attendance during June and August. Season pass sales were about equal to the previous season.

CITY STAFF REPORT

Staff stated all required warming house positions had been filled after a slow start. In the event of a staffing shortage low use facilities such as Athletic and Pinehurst would be closed first.

Staff enquired about the rental of a brush mower for use in fall trimming along the ski trails. Pros and Cons of this approach were discussed. The Commission generally agreed the method was worth attempting next year with a report on any negative feedback received.

Staff has been working on winterization of buildings. All holiday light displays are out at ready for the season. Despite the recent snow, grooming of ski trails is delayed due to trees and branches down across trails from heavy snow load.

ACTION ITEMS

Staff and the Commission discussed potential changes to the 2020 fee schedule. No changes were recommended for camping or general park reservation fees. Pinehurst Pond fees were discussed due to continued increases in staffing costs related to minimum wage increases. Community Ed reports feedback from the public on pond rates is mixed with some expressing concern over high rates while others are surprised at the value. The Commission ultimately agreed to adjust rates with a provision to increase the early season pass discount to hold down costs for residents.

Motion by Urbanski and 2nd by Martinson to recommend approval of the 2020 park fee schedule including revised pond rates, deleting the tubing hill, removing kitchen use from the Senior Center and adding previously approved rates and damage deposits for the Pine Valley Chalet, and Dunlap Island. Motion carried 4-0.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting to be held Monday January 6, 2020 - 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