

Regular Meeting.
Parks Commission September 14, 2020 - 4:30 p.m.
City Hall

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

MINUTES

The minutes of the March 2, 2020 regular meeting were presented. Motion by J. Fryc and 2nd by M. Krick to approve, motion carried 6-0.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

A tax referendum discussion will be added to the City Staff Report.

COMMUNITY ED

R. Reeves' reports that over the summer they never shut down, it was just slow and steady with the Covid restrictions in place. Now they are in Fall mode with indoor pool, after school enrichment activities and youth volleyball starting soon. All events will be smaller and with more restrictions due to Covid-19. Park rentals were busy and are now coming to an end; this winter the Senior Center will not be available for rentals. The indoor pool is down waiting for an exhaust system repair. The Beach House was vandalized. Staff added that there is an ongoing investigation and discussion regarding security cameras ensued. Community Education is looking forward to next spring and summer without restrictions.

COMMISSIONERS UPDATE

Commissioner Krohn notes that recently he asked some students on skateboards to vacate the tennis courts in Pinehurst Park. He noted that City Code states no games shall be played on the tennis courts other than tennis and perhaps now pickle ball should be added. He also met J.Nemmers in Pine Valley who was cleaning-up and invited him to attend the meeting to discuss snowboarding in the park. J.Nemmers shared his vision and will meet with commission members to point out the areas the snowboard group would like to use. . Lastly, he saw that the life-savers box down by the river in Spafford is totally empty of lifejackets. Commissioner Badger commented on all the garbage the parks are getting this year. Braun Park is often overflowing, and he will contact a member of the Baseball Association. City staff has had to increase pick-up by four times.

CITY STAFF REPORT

Staff states that the City Administrator would like the Parks Commission to consider a sales tax referendum. The rules have changed and the projects eligible for tax money must be of regional significance. Areas to consider are the ski jumps, the chalet and adding more trails. Commissioner Urbanski states other areas include a 5th field at Hilltop and possible indoor space at Braun Park. Commissioner Krohn volunteered to work on a Master Plan. Staff asks for ideas and discussion regarding all the park signage. There are a variety of colors and types and now is the time to create a more cohesive and thoughtful plan. Identification of the parks and additional wayfinding signs should be added, primarily in Pine Valley. Walking, biking and ski trails should be marked so visitors know the use of each trail. Numbers and/or letters can be added to the trail maps for determining exactly where a person is. K. Stedman and A. Chalberg provided info on the condition of some of the existing signs, especially the wooden ones. Lastly Staff shared the numbers from last years warming house usage. Warming houses at Athletic Park and Pinehurst are used much less than those at Sunnyside and Dunlap Island. In addition, a new furnace is needed at Athletic Park. A hybrid plan may be the most feasible with the two lesser used warming houses closed, the ice still maintained, with benches and a porta-potty available. The other two will be staffed and open as usual with directions for users to maintain the current Covid-19 mandates. Staff will bring this to the council for consideration.

ACTION ITEMS

The 2021 Park Budget and Park CIP were discussed.

Motion by Urbanski and 2nd by Martinson to recommend approval of the 2021 Park Fund Operating Budget and the 2021-2025 Park CIP. Motion carried 6-0.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting to be held Monday November 2, 2020 - 4:30 p.m. at City Hall.

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

Secretary