

Regular Meeting.

Parks Commission November 2, 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, L. Anderson

Others: R. Reeves, K. Kolodge, A. Jerde, S. Buhs, B. Menze

MINUTES

The minutes of the September 14, 2020 regular meeting were presented. Motion by J. Fryc and 2nd by T. Krohn to approve, motion carried 6-0.

COMMISSIONERS UPDATE/OTHER

To preface the naming of Pine Valley Trails conversation staff explains that the naming process will be worked on over the winter, this is a preliminary discussion. The generic names can be approved by the Park Commission and any name that is a dedication to an individual would need a recommendation from the Commission and final approval by the City Council. Commissioner Urbanski said there are informal names out there at this time and that should be considered, and he likes the numbering system used in Jay Cooke to go along with the names. Staff said in order to assist in navigation and potential emergency situations the names need to be formalized along with some possible numbering for wayfinding, then signage installed. Commissioner Krohn noted that he recently met with two user groups interested in the naming process; the Wednesday Adventure Women and the Milltown Milers. From that meeting other items to consider are bike racks, changing areas, benches and a bike wrench station. Three representatives, Allison, Sarah, & Brendan came in to introduce their groups and share the names they collaborated on. Both are larger groups, very active and do a lot of volunteering. Staff states that Pine Valley is a volunteer and user driven park and the involvement is much appreciated. Staff and Commission members discussed the various uses at Pine Valley and how they can coexist. Safety measures such as snow fence has been installed to keep the groups from running onto the wrong trails, the signage needs to be done right. Commissioner Krohn reports that the Friends of Cloquet Parks has been approved as a 501c3 tax exempt organization. This designation can be a tool for all of the fund raising done for the parks. Congratulations Commissioner Krohn! Commissioner Krohn also added that he has planned a board with all the donor names on it for all of the grants so far. He is prepping the snow-dog for grooming at this time and he has spoken to a forester about trapping the beaver.

COMMUNITY ED

R. Reeves' reports that after a six week wait for repairs the pool is up and running. Small groups activities include swim lessons and lap swimming. They hope to continue small group activities per Covid restrictions as long as the school stays open. She has quite a few skates that were donated and was wondering if they could be distributed during the ski club exchange. Lastly R. Reeves announced that this would be her last meeting as she will be retiring in December. Congratulations and thank you for your participation in the Parks Commission!

CITY STAFF REPORT

Staff met with a snowboarding group regarding using Pine Valley. They were advised if they leave equipment at the hill the City may need a formal agreement with the group and insurance. Staff provided direction for them. The ski club asked if the existing tow rope could be used. Staff determined the motor runs, but the rope is too old and the replacement is not in the budget this year, but perhaps in the future. Staff discussed grooming the trails and the need to coordinate with the volunteers so there are no overlaps. Also, groomers must stay 100 feet away from the ski jump. The part-time groomer from last year will be coming back this year. Commissioners noted that single track trail runs under the ski jump and should be rerouted, the mountain bike trail has one area that needs snow fence to keep it separate from other trails. Staff noted that the pond leveler seems to be helping and both rinks at the hockey arena are under construction. In addition, the donated hockey boards are almost up. Maintenance is working on various winterizing projects, the lights on the trail system, and holiday lights. Lastly Staff asked about the financial reporting for the Friends of Cloquet Parks now with the 501c3 classification, discussion ensued about the responsibilities and the use of the 501c3. Commissioner Krohn said they have a board and elected a treasurer but would entertain more board members.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting to be held in January 2021 (date TBD) - 4:30 p.m. at City Hall.

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

Secretary