

Regular Meeting.

Parks Commission July 12, 2021 - 4:30 p.m.

City Hall

Present: C. Martinson, T. Krohn, J. Badger, J. Fryc, M. Krick, T. Urbanski

Absent: J. Anderson

Staff: C. Peterson

Others: E. Bates, K. Ripp, B. Menze, K. Weissenborn, K. Luger

MINUTES

The minutes of the May 3, 2021 regular meeting were presented. Motion by Urbanski and 2nd by Fryc to approve, motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Hoffman shared a desire to reserve the new pickle ball courts at Sunnyside Park for the local senior players during planned dates Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday 8:30am-11am. Staff reviewed the current program and highlighted potential issues with making the courts a reservable feature. Commissioners asked about existing issues and noted no good solution is available. Mr. Hoffman expressed there have been no major issues to date, but this may change due to popularity. Bates from Community Ed offered to open league thru Community Ed. The Commission encouraged Mr. Hoffman to explore this option further.

COMMUNITY ED REPORT

E. Bates noted struggles with staffing at the Beach this summer. Normally 25 lifeguards are hired to staff the Beach this summer only 10 were available. Four guards are required for coverage, but normal staffing levels would be six guards and a supervisor. Due to staffing shortage, a lifejacket requirement was implemented for those under twelve and the Beach has been unable to open some days for lack of staffing. Bates also noted Kim Miens has been hired as the new Aquatics Coordinator at Community Ed.

A new Lumberlog and updates to the Community Ed website are programmed for August.

CITY STAFF REPORT

Staff reports that the Pine Valley Sales Tax pass its first hurdle and has been authorized by the State Legislature. The issue must now go to voters for approval at the next election.

Pat Marciniak has been hired to fill the newly created part time park maintenance position.

PINE VALLEY MASTER PLAN REVIEW

Karyn Luger and Karl Weissenborn from Short Elliot Hendrickson were present to review feedback from the Master Plan open house and online survey. Direction was requested on some feedback prior developing a draft plan for the August meeting. Categories of discussion included the following:

1. Chalet Options – Generally agreed this was a high priority improvement. The Commission favored lower cost renovations to the existing building with a new trail head facilities constructed elsewhere onsite including rustic restroom, changing area, a picnic shelter, and bike tools/racks.
2. Cross Country Trails – A long discussion was held on snow making. The ski club would like the possibility to snow the jumps and a small .5km training loop. Some Commissioners expressed concerns with costs, water use, and maintenance. Direction given to leave this in the plan but place as long-term priority. The proposed roller ski course was not seen as a good fit for the natural environment of the park.
3. Single Track Trails – The Commission and Bike Club both expressed interest in the addition of a skills course. A medium priority was expressed by Commission members.
4. Ski Jumps – Preservation/maintenance of the existing jumps and associated structures expressed as a very high priority. The Commission questioned if the addition of a 70-meter jump was even feasible. Bike and Ski Club members in attendance believe opening of the second tow rope may be feasible with some minor modification in grooming.
5. Ski/Snowboard Hill – Some concern expressed by the Commission about suitability of the hill and competition from Spirit Mountain and Mont du Lac. Single track crossings would require further coordination. Past snowboard use has resulted in issues with grooming damage and garbage.
6. Undeveloped Area Ideas – General guidance was to encourage the development of more multi use trails in this area, but a lower priority was assigned vs. existing infrastructure.
7. Signage & Wayfinding – All agreed this was important. Some discussion was held on standardization.

8. Parking Lot & Access Improvements – The Commission favored a phased approach with a focus on minor drainage, grading and landscape improvements. The addition of pavement, curb and lighting was favorable but should be prioritized against other investments as funds are available.
9. Picnic Amenities – Primarily addressed under Chalet Improvements. The Commission would like to see how these facilities would lay out on site.
10. Natural Resource Management – Developing a plan for forest management and wetland/waterway preservation expressed as important.

ACTION ITEMS

Staff reviewed the proposed 2022 Park Operating Budget. Urbanski moved to recommend approval of the proposed budget, Fryc seconded. (Motion Carried 5-0).

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting to be held August 2, 2021 - 4:30 p.m. (City Hall)

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

Secretary