



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes September 9, 2020

Webex



I. Call Meeting to Order

President Crosby called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present: Amanda Crosby, Tjaard Breeuwer, David Demmer, Britt Rohrbaugh, Jill Joyce, Jenny Peterson, Noah Kramer, Barb Darland, City Council Liaison – Arik Forsman.

Not Present: David Kirby (ISD 709 School Board Liaison), Frank Jewell (St. Louis County Board Liaison).

III. Approval of August 12 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Joyce motioned for approval of the August 12 meeting minutes; second by Commissioner Rohrbaugh. Unanimously approved.

IV. Presentations

A. Annual Bow Hunt (Informational) Diane Desotelle, Natural Resources Coordinator

Demmer questioned if there is a long-term plan, or target, for the decline in the deer harvests.

Phil Lockett indicated there isn't an actual number, they focus on citizen complaints, number of dead deer on the roads, and focus on the hot spots to manage the numbers.

Demmer indicated he supports this type of active management, and would like to see continued conversations.

B. Fall Programming (Informational) Megan Lidd, Provisional Assistant Manager

Jenny Peterson questioned how this year compares to last year in regards to participant numbers. Megan Lidd indicated the numbers scaled back this spring without programs, but were able to build up over the summer. Shared limited staffing has impacted the ability to provide the additional programming.

Joyce shared the positive feedback from the public regarding the Easter Egg Hunt in the spring.

Crosby agreed with Joyce.

V. Commissioner Committees

Administrative (E-Board) meeting date: Thursday, September 24 at noon via Webex
Amanda Crosby, Tjaard Breeuwer [Jess Peterson, Megan Lidd, Jessica Haig, Jim Filby Williams]

Public Golf Committee – Tuesday, September 15 at 5 p.m., virtual meeting on Webex
David Demmer, Jenny Peterson, Noah Kramer [Jess Peterson, Jessica Haig]

VI. Commissioner & Liaison Reports

VII. New Business

VIII. Old Business



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A. Memorial Program Chapter 35 City Ordinance Draft (Action Requested) Jess Peterson, Manager

Joyce indicated she would like to share punctuation edits via email, shared it does not alter the meaning of the content.

Jenny Peterson shared she supports the document.

Darland agrees with the language and looks forward to seeing it move forward to the City Council.

Rohrbaugh indicated she missed the July meeting, and hopes the document will clarify and provide more answers to her friends. Shared she would like to see this pushed back to another month.

Jessica Peterson requested Rohrbaugh to connect Cheryl Skafte to the individuals who have questions about the benches along the Lakewalk.

Demmer questioned item G – Parks and green spaces are not collectively memorial parks. Questioned if there is an opportunity to allow those to provide a temporary memorial under a defined timeline.

Jessica Peterson indicated that temporary memorials do occur. Indicated they do degrade over time and the City needs to reserve the right to remove objects to keep parks spaces clean – such as flowers dying, or items blowing away. Highlighted City staff will not immediately remove items, but rather try to track down the family to have them gather the items.

Cheryl Skafte indicated the goal of parks is not to memorialize people.

Demmer shared he would like to define “temporary” under item G.

Breeuwer indicated his thoughts are opposite to Demmer, shared temporary items cause the most issues because they after time – they turn to trash. Indicated he does not want to include language that temporary placements are allowed.

Kramer requested clarification on item C. Questioned who pays the fees.

Jessica Peterson indicated the fees would be paid by the individual or family that request the placement of the memorial.

Kramer indicated his family has a bench for their grandfather in Iowa, and the City offers an insurance policy if damage is done to the bench. Questioned if this is something the City has looked into.

Jess Peterson indicated this has not, due to the fact that the memorial program is not within City Code. Shared we have not had an issue with memorials until all the benches located along the Lakewalk.

Demmer motion to table to vote on approving the proposed Chapter 35 code updates to include a new section on the memorial program until October. Second Rohrbaugh. Motion carries.

XIII. Division Report

Demmer questioned how invasive species play into the roll in deciding to mow or not mow.

Jessica Peterson recommended Demmer to get in touch with Natural Resources Coordinator, Diane Desotelle.



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Demmer indicated invasive management can be controlled by mowing – such as tansy on the bikeways.

Jessica Peterson indicated the Chester Trail Use Recommendations will be going to City Council during the September 14 meeting. Indicated this was proposed to go to Council in March, but COVID derailed this timeline. Peterson shared the US Steel MOA will also move forward to City Council on September 14, which impacts the Waabizheshikana project. Jessica Peterson also mentioned the Lester Park Golf Course parking lot has reopened. Shared schools have inquired about this space to hold cross-country running races. Jessica Peterson indicated the City has been working on reopening building plans – which project to be November at this time due to staffing capacity and public health. Stated schools have been using our park spaces to meet, and will continue to do so until it's cold.

Jim Filby Williams shared information regarding the Eerie Pier Ponds Shared the opening of this Cross City Trail segment will be postponed until this contaminant remediation project is completed at this section of the Cross City Trail.

Jessica Peterson stated a revised concept plan and budget regarding the Lincoln Park Project was submitted yesterday to the National Park Service – and is currently being reviewed.

Demmer questioned why there isn't a crossing of BSNF at Spirit Landing. Jim Filby Williams shared the process was too long, where we had to surrender the grant. Demmer questioned if there are plans to reopen the Mini-Master Plan, indicated he could see groups and citizens see this reopen being the importance of this recreational resource. Shared he understands there are variables outside of our control, but hopes the procedure moves forward accordingly. Jim Filby Williams indicated he called each stakeholder to notify that the City will reengage the planning process.

Public Comment

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm.

XIV. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 14 via Webex