

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION Minutes
January 26, 2023



The meeting was called to order by Chair Ledin at 5:01 pm on January 26, 2023, in Government Center Room 204.

1. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Nick Ledin, Ruth Ludwig, David Kroll, Mick MacKenzie, Gene Rosburg, Elizabeth Norén, Jemal Broussard

City Staff Present: Linda Cadotte, Russ Behlings, Jodi Saylor, Michael Maruska

Others Present: Maria Lockwood (Superior Telegram) *

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1. Parks & Recreation Commission (Meeting held September 29, 2022)

MOTION by Ludwig, second by Norén and carried to approve the minutes from the September 29, 2022, meeting with correction to spelling of MacKenzie.

3. OLD BUSINESS

3.1. Request approval for Animals Ordinance Revision –Off Leash Areas

There was discussion of the ordinance changes to clarify that dogs are to be on a leash unless in designated “off leash areas” as defined in the ordinance updates. The Commissioners felt it important that dogs be leashed when they are not on the owner’s property to avoid any possible conflicts or attacks.

MOTION by Ludwig, second by Norén and carried to approve the revisions to the ordinance with amendments listed below.

AMMENDMENT to the motion by MacKenzie, second by Broussard to adopt changes to the revised ordinance as presented by Commissioner MacKenzie to include the following under Chapter 22 “Under Restraint Definition”:

- 1. By a fence, leash, tie out line, electronic fence, or owner command if effective and/or productive, within the confines of owner’s property*
- 2. By a “leash” while outside the confines of the owner’s property and on public property to include trails, parks, and government buildings*
- 2. Within a vehicle that is sufficiently enclosed so as to prevent the animal from exiting the vehicle. In addition, vehicle confining the animal should be monitored periodically in an effort to prevent the animal’s exposure to extreme temperatures.*

MOTION by Ledin, second by Rosburg to amend the amendment and to adopt items one and three and leave two as was originally presented.

MOTION by MacKenzie, second by Rosburg and carried to refer the WI Point off-leash section to the WI Point Committee and the ordinance revisions to the Public Safety Committee.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1. Volunteer Program Re-Cap Presentation (*receive and file*)

MOTION by Rosburg, second by MacKenzie and approved to receive and file the 2022 Volunteer Program Re-Cap.

4.2. Boat Launches Re-Cap Presentation (*receive and file*)

MOTION by Rosburg, second by Norén and approved to receive and file the 2022 Boat Launch Re-Cap.

4.3. Approval requested for purchase offer Bunge Corp Land off 44th Avenue

There was discussion regarding the benefits of this land being owned by the City. Some of the reasons were that the City currently has a few right of ways in the area and already does some cleanup of garbage and such on the property. Ownership would allow the City to maintain and potentially make improvements to the land.

MOTION Rosburg, second by Ludwig and approved to support the purchase the Bunge Corp Land off 44th Avenue.

5. RECURRING BUSINESS

5.1. Director's Update

- 5.1.1. Letters have been sent out to previous grant applications inviting applications for 2023. The Council approved \$70K for 2023 Recreational Grants. Applications are due February 28th and will be reviewed by this commission at the next meeting on March 16th. Recommendations will then be made and voted on at the March 23rd Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.
- 5.1.2. The Volunteer, Events & Program Coordinator Position and pay rate were approved at the last Human Resources Committee meeting. The hope is they will also be approved at the next City Council meeting.
- 5.1.3. The Catamaran Leases on Barkers Island were approved, however, the concrete was not able to be poured prior to winter so will be poured this spring. We did allow them to store the boats there for this winter.
- 5.1.4. Will be posting soon looking for bands for this year's Bayside Sounds concerts. The person hired for the new position will be working with this program to allow Caitlin the ability to focus on the Summer Playground Program.
- 5.1.5. Pickle Pond project was awarded to White Lake Dock and Dredge out of Norton Shore, Michigan. Spring staging will happen by the Veteran's Memorial on the corner of Belknap and Hwy 2. There will be a dewatering area in the space near where the sledding hill is located for the Ice Festival.
- 5.1.6. Overnight parking lots – there has been some discussion on how and where to enforce this ordinance. This will be brought to a future Public Safety meeting.
- 5.1.7. The Parks CIP projects will be presented at the March 23rd meeting.
- 5.1.8. If approved, we will bring back the off leash ordinance changes to discuss where signs were placed and look at potential concern areas where they also could be place.
- 5.1.9. Introduced Michael Maruska as the new Full Time Working Foreman for the Parks crew. This was a new position created this year. Michael has been with the City for about 5 years.

5.1.10. Superintendent's Update

- 5.1.10.1. The Solar lights are on and working on the trail. They are set to run for 3 hours from sunset. Cloudy days and snow can affect them, but they are working to fix the bugs. There are 108 lights all with color id and number for easy location if calls come in about lights not working. They are on all of the Red Trail and part of the Green Trail.
- 5.1.11. Ski trails are booming and grooming is going great. Crews are now grooming 6 days per week which is earlier than in past years.
- 5.1.12. Ice Rinks are coming along. Warmer weather and snow have made it difficult. All but Red Barn are now open. The 4 primary rinks are up and running with lights on timers, and they are working on LED upgrades on those.
- 5.1.13. Veteran's Park new equipment has been installed and has pour in place surfacing. Turned out very nicely. The crew that installed the pour in place did damage some equipment, but they repaired most of that and are getting supplies to make additional corrections. Cadotte added that that park and land are owned by the housing authority. That land was supposed to be transferred to the City after this project, but the Housing Authority decided not to do that. Director Cadotte suggested the City consider giving them the playground which they would then be responsible to maintain.

5.2. Future Agenda Items

- 5.3. Confirm next meeting date as March 16, 2023, at 5pm in Room 204 of the Government Center
The Commission requested presentations be given by any new applicants (15 minutes) or applicants that have a major change in what their request is.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Rosburg, second by Norén and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jodi Saylor