
The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Norén at 5:00 pm on March 24, 2022 in Government Center Room 204.

1. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nick Ledin, Gene Rosburg, Elizabeth Norén, David Kroll

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jemal Broussard, Keith Kern

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Linda Cadotte, Jodi Saylor, Russ Behlings

OTHERS PRESENT: Maria Lockwood*(Superior Telegram), Jenny Van Sickle*(City Council)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1. Parks & Recreation Commission (Meetings held January 27 and March 17, 2022)

MOTION by Rosburg, second by Ledin and carried to approve the minutes from January 27, 2022 and March 17, 2022 meetings.

3. OLD BUSINESS

3.1. Smoke Free Survey Results, Charmaine Swanson
(link to presentation: https://youtu.be/6itbvs_hCW4)

MOTION by Rosburg, second by Ledin and carried to receive and file this report.

3.2. Approve the Recommendations for the 2022 Recreational Grants

The sub-committee, which then turned into a quorum, met and made a recommendation last week of how to award the grants. Since then, there were a couple of follow ups that were done with some of the applicants. Director Cadotte reached out to Project Graduation for examples of past recognition and they found that the grant awarded in 2021 was not spent due to the pandemic and so they withdrew their application and will use that money for 2022. Director Cadotte also reached out to Superior Amateur Hockey Association for examples of how they recognized the City's support of waiving the first time player fees and they provided information that is on their website. There was discussion on how to re-distribute the \$1,250 that was not going to Project Graduation.

MOTION by Ledin, second by Rosburg, and carried take the \$1,250 to split and give an additional \$625 each to the PASS Foundation and North Shore SUP.

Organization	2022 Grant Amount Recommended
Superior Area Lacrosse, Inc	\$ 6,500.00
Superior Douglas County Family YMCA	\$ 7,000.00
Superior Youth Organization	\$ 7,000.00
North Shore SUP	\$ 2,875.00
SAHA	\$18,000.00
UW-Extension 4-H	\$ 5,000.00
Superior Basketball Association (SBA)	\$ 5,000.00
Challenge Center	\$ 5,000.00
Superior Wrestling Club	\$ 1,000.00
Club Superior Volleyball	\$ 3,000.00
Blue Water Paddling	\$ 3,000.00
PASS Foundation	\$ 6,625.00
TOTAL Awards	\$70,000.00

MOTION by Rosburg, second by Ledin and carried to approve the grant recommendations as adjusted.

3.3. Approve the Recommendations for 5 Year CIP Projects

Director Cadotte made a couple of changes to the proposed CIP projects.

1. Woodstock Bay is an unknown as the project cost is based on estimates so if it the project comes in at \$1.6M, she would likely cut some aspects to get it as close to \$1.25M without compromising the overall integrity of the project. This could potentially affect other projects.
2. Osaugie Trail Paving – The Mayor suggested seeking CDBG funding for that so that was moved out from the CIP budget.
3. The reconfiguring of ball fields was removed at this time to free up funding to support the Barker’s Island project taking place this summer.
4. Webster Dream Park plumbed restroom and drinking fountain was added.
5. The dog wash station, restroom and storage facilities at the dog park were removed, however the water access and drinking fountain were kept.
7. The big cost increase came from the SOGL project – was originally at \$200K and had to pull some additional funds to help pay for pieces of that project.
8. The \$100K for the trees were shifted to more specific projects.
9. The original CDBG had outlined \$250K for Wade Bowl. The funding was changed to \$150K from CDBG to accurately reflect budget sources with an additional \$100K coming from the CIP budget for the splash pad/skating rink combination.

Councilor Van Sickle clarified the Osaugie Trail paving project was to including paving of the full width of the trail from 39th Avenue East to 44th Avenue East not from 44th Avenue East to Moccasin Mike Road due to jurisdiction that being governed by the Tri County Corridor. Councilor Van Sickle said if the motorized groups want to contribute financially, she invites that. She would want to consider that that section of the Osaugie has not been properly overhauled in almost 40 years which is why there was some amount of pressure coming to get it handled.

Councilor Ledin questioned if there have been conversations with the Police Department on having cameras installed and if they would be enough to get convictions from. Director Cadotte shared that the next step is that this project will be discussed at the next Public Safety Committee. From there, she discussed with President Elm sending it to the IT Committee to vet out the cameras themselves and then it would likely either come back to the Parks & Recreation Commission or go directly to City Council.

Councilor Van Sickle asked that the minutes note that the Carl Gullo Park project, based on resident surveys, would be Option B. That configuration would be to move and upgrade the playground to the court side of the street, to remodel the courts to be half tennis/pickleball and half basketball, and upgrade the hockey rink.

MOTION by Rosburg, second by Ledin and carried to approve the recommendations for the 5 Year CIP projects with the changes to the Osaugie Trail Paving project going from 39th to 44th only.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1. Spotz Software Update

4.1.1. Recommendation for Ballfield Adult League Rates

Overall, the Spotz Software is working well. People seem to like the option to book and pay for reservations online. It has streamlined the process for both staff and customers.

Last year we allowed City ballfields to be reserved for in 90 minutes time blocks. The cost was \$25 for games and free for practices if teams did not want the field prepped for practices. We received feedback from players and coaches that some teams would like to have more time before their games to warm up. This year, based on feedback, we are proposing that we allow fields to be rented by the ½ hour with a one hour minimum and a 2 hour maximum. The proposal is to charge \$12.50 per ½ hour. The cost to rent the fields has not been changed in many years, however the costs for maintenance have continued to rise. The goal would not be to discourage any teams from playing but to offset costs and allow the fields to be used as much as possible. This would mean that if a team booked a field from two hours, their rate would be \$50. For example, a team that plays 6 games per season has been paying \$150. If they reserved the fields for two hours they would now pay \$225 for the 6 games and warmup field time.

MOTION by Ledin, second by Rosburg and carried to approve the recommendation for Ballfield Adult League Rates.

4.2. Launch fee and Kayak Storage rack at Pokegama Landing

Last summer the landing was improved. A new City resident contacted the Parks Department and asked about Pokegama having a kayak/canoe rental storage rack. This brought up the question of launch fees as well. All of our improved launches have a fee associated to launch a boat. Pokegama is set up for both paddle and motorized launch. The question was posed to the Commission - should this launch have a fee associated as well and should we have a rental kayak storage rack there as well? After some discussion, it was decided to go through this first full season of paddling, fishing and hunting to see how much use there is and then revisit this next spring.

MOTION by Ledin, second by Rosburg, and carried to hold until next spring and more data is collected regarding usage of the landing at Pokegama.

4.3. Solar Accounts for Parks

There were several meetings and discussions on having part of the City of Superior Parks Capital money to go toward investment of solar blocks that SWLP is building. This would help to offset the electric utility costs for City parks. Director Cadotte did some calculating and came up with roughly 20 blocks. The initial thought was that if a park were in the CDBG area, it could qualify for ARPA funding. Being that the Parks CIP is not restricted in that way, the funding approved to go towards the 20 blocks of power does not have to be limited to those CDBG parks. The City Council approved the purchase of the 20 blocks. Currently finalizing which parks will be put on this program. The Commission members discussed the benefits of putting higher visited/higher usage parks on the solar program. Members felt it best to keep it simple up front and decided on putting three parks on the program - Heritage, Center City and Bear Creek. Signage will be added to those parks indicating that the electric is powered by solar.

MOTION by Rosburg, second by Ledin and carried to Heritage, Center City and Bear Creek parks on to the solar block program to offset their electric.

4.4. Skating Program Season Re-cap

Overall, the number of skaters were down this year. There could be a number of reasons for that. The Parks Department got approval from HR to increase salary for rink attendants, which allowed us to hire enough people to fully staff the rinks. They also lowered the age requirement from 18 years old to 16, with this adjustment was the change to have 2 attendants at each rink. Rinks were opened later than normal due to the temperatures when large snow events occurred. Compared to last year, there were half the number skaters. The Skating Coordinator, Cyndi, had a very hard time getting staff consistently scheduled. Water usage was down this year. It did not get cold for a long time but once it did, everything froze up quickly and the cold helped maintain the ice,

which required less flooding. Due to the amount of snow removal needed, flooding days were down which also helped with water savings.

At the Billings Park rink, crews tried a new method of laying a thick plastic liner down and flooding over that. They found it did not provide consistent ice and one side of the rink would be very thick ice while the other was very thin. They feel gravel base for rinks is the most effective, efficient, least expensive way to go.

MOTION by Rosburg, second by Ledin and carried to receive and file.

4.5. Beach Monitoring and Closures

The City has several monitoring locations. Three at WI Point and 2 locations at Barkers Island. If water quality is deemed to be hazardous to swimmer's health, signs are put up to notify people. At Barker's Island, the DNR stops monitoring after Labor Day weekend. Since there are sometimes still warm enough days for swimming, the Parks department will usually put out signs saying, "The beach is no longer being monitored, swim at your own risk." Going forward, we would like to keep the beach at Barkers open until weather warrants a closure versus a hard calendar day. We propose continuing to monitor through that time at the City's expense. The DNR covers the cost during the summer through Labor Day weekend.

The City is looking to test the water quality at the old Billings Park Beach as a step toward determining if this beach could ever be made a formal swimming area again. Lake Superior Research Institute (LSRI) is contracted by the DNR to do beach monitoring. They recommend pre-season testing, weekly and then after half inch rain events. LSNERR submitted a grant to do that a Billings Park for next summer which would then be covered for the following summer (2024) but waiting may keep us from allowing swimming as early as next year.

MOTION by Rosburg, second by Ledin and carried to continue testing water quality at Barker's Island Swimming Beach to have the beach season line up with the weather and to test water quality at the old Billings Park beach area.

4.6. Medallion Hunt Discussion

The 2021 Medallion Hunt was put in a location that led people to think it could have been on WI Point. Unfortunately, people were not respectful of the cemetery, causing Midwest Communications to cancel the hunt. People also searched the Makwa Ziibiins Miikana Trail. There was a lot of foot traffic and some minimal damage. This year we issued the permit to allow the hunt on public land that could not be anywhere close to or perceived to be close to any culturally sensitive areas. Unfortunately, some of the clues made people think it could be in Superior on one of the ski trails. This caused lots of foot traffic on the trails and even had people drive on the trail. Director Cadotte asked for the Commission member's feedback on whether Superior should continue to be part of the Medallion Hunt? After some discussion, it was decided to discuss this at a fall meeting

prior to issuing the permit again.

MOTION by Ledin, second by Rosburg and carried to hold this discussion until the fall meeting.

5. RECURRING BUSINESS

5.1. Director's Update

Behlings shared an update on the ski season – which was a great season. The trails were open for 100 days and groomed 88 of those days. Crews started six day grooming on January 2nd and groomed for 10 weeks, mostly Sundays. There were 704 staff hours which equates to about \$22K worth of staff time. Trail use was way up this year as trail counters showed around 2K on each site. The crew has also been making modifications to signs to make the navigation easier.

6. Future Agenda Items

6.1. Ski season recap

6.2. Discuss Park Pavilion Reservation rates for residents versus businesses. (Bring back after this year's peak rental season)

7. Confirm next meeting date as May 26, 2022 in Room 204 of the Government Center

8. ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Norén adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jodi Saylor