

## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

August 22, 2019

Room 204, Government Center

Members Present: Keith Kern, Gene Rosburg, Brittany Berrens Markgren, Elizabeth Norén, Ruth Ludwig, Tom Wondolkowski

Members Excused: Jemal Broussard

Also Present: Linda Cadotte, Angie Harker, Russ Behlings, Brent Fennessey, Shelley Nelson, Charmaine Swan, Pat McKone, Marge McConnell, Mark McConnell, Kelly Schoen, Sandra D. Breitzman, Brian Raygor, Nick Baker

1. Approval of July 25, 2019 meeting minutes

**MOTION by Ludwig, seconded by Wondolkowksi, and carried to approve the Parks and Recreation Commission minutes of July 25, 2019.**

2. Held in Committee from the July 25, 2019 meeting: Tobacco Free Parks – draft ordinance. There were a number of citizens in attendance who addressed the commission regarding the draft ordinance. Some spoke in favor of an ordinance making all parks/city owned recreational areas smoke free, and some voiced opposition to a blanket ordinance, and were in support of designated areas or restrictions from playground equipment and pavilions. Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director Linda Cadotte shared several emails that she received about the issue with similar sentiments (some people supporting the ordinance and some opposing). The commission then discussed the proposed ordinance at length. A number of different amendments were suggested. Ultimately, the commission decided to table the ordinance until the next meeting. Notes were taken on the suggested amendments and an updated draft ordinance will be brought back to the September 26<sup>th</sup> commission meeting.

**MOTION by Kern, seconded by Ludwig, and carried to table the Tobacco Free Parks – draft ordinance until the next meeting.**

3. Update ordinance: no hunting within 100 feet of City trails

A correction was noted that the ordinance update as listed on the agenda should have stated to consider no hunting within 100 *yards* of City trails. Cadotte explained the current code states that there is no hunting within 100 yards of any house, building, railroad track, airplane runway or taxiway, road or public street, however trails were not listed. The commission felt adding “trail” was appropriate.

**MOTION by Kern, seconded by Rosburg, and carried to approve updating the ordinance to include no hunting within 100 yards of a City trail.**

4. Update ordinance: Archery hunting areas, by removing “South Superior Area.”

Cadotte explained that approximately two years ago, the land around the South Superior archery hunting area was purchased by a private party. The department removed the area from the hunting maps, and hunters were made aware, however it was presumed that the Deer Committee would update the ordinance.

**MOTION by Rosburg, seconded by Wondolkowski, and carried to approve updating the ordinance to remove the “South Superior Area” from the Archery hunting section of the City Code.**

5. Barker’s Island Beach – allowable uses, businesses/classes/organized activities.

Cadotte explained that since the Barker’s Island Beach reopened after the restoration project, the department has received a number of requests to use the beach for various activities such as kettle bell classes, yoga, a portable sauna, etc. It has also been noted that canoes and kayaks have been launching off the beach instead of using the designated launch on the island. Cadotte inquired if the commission would like to set guidelines for the beach. Commissioners indicated that they would like the department to keep track of additional requests and revisit the issue at the February 2020 meeting.

**MOTION by Kern, seconded by Wondolkowki, and carried to hold in committee the Barker’s Island Beach allowable uses until the February 2020 meeting.**

6. Arrowhead Fishing Pier docks.

Park Superintendent Russ Behlings outlined the issues occurring with the Arrowhead Fishing Pier docks due to the lack of flexibility in the fixed docks, twisting of one dock, along with high water levels and the inability to adjust the docks to this. Behlings outlined a solution which would involve one single 30 foot floating, ADA compliant dock, which would be centered for launching on both sides. The cost estimate for this dock is around \$12,000. Concrete work would also need to be done and could be completed this fall. The condition of the dock was discussed at length and it was suggested that perhaps an engineer should be brought on to consider a redesign and develop an overall plan as this is a difficult area to launch due to currents, wind, etc.

7. Parks, Recreation & Forestry Director’s Report

Cadotte provided an update on the following:

- The department was informed that the term “buskering” should actually be “busking” therefore the policy and documents have been updated to correct this.
- The Dragon Boat Festival is happening this weekend at Barker’s Island which means the beach and fishing pier will be closed today through Monday.
- The Kelly Park CDBG proposals will be opened tomorrow. The proposals were to include two playground schematic designs using a \$75,000 budget, plus \$150,000 for pathways, trees, courts, etc.
- Disc Golf: The department purchased the baskets for approximately \$3700. They are the same design as those in Central Park, but an improved version. They were installed today. There will be a grand opening event in September or October.
- Webster Dream Park: The community build was very successful last Thursday and half a day Friday utilizing a team of 15-20 volunteers. The pour in place surfacing will be installed however; the company is running behind having to address school playgrounds first.
- A Wisconsin Naturalist Program is being offered at the Reserve in Superior. Information about this was shared.
- Zagster Bike Program: One bike had gone missing and was discovered in a junk pile. The mechanic will determine if he can use any parts from it. Cadotte shared some

statistics with the commission indicating that 180 automobile trips have been saved when people have used a Zagster bike instead, along with eliminating 160 pounds of CO2 emissions from the environment. There have been 334 total hours of riding and 170,000 calories burned. Thirsty Pagan has expressed interest in becoming a sponsor of a station and now is a critical time for sponsorship renewals.

- Playground surfacing update: Complaints have been received regarding the use of woodchips for playground surfacing i.e. children are getting chips in their shoes and getting slivers. Cadotte reiterated the need to bring the playgrounds into compliance with this surfacing. The cost for materials and install for the woodchips was \$82,000 versus upwards of a half million dollars if pour in place materials were installed in the parks.
- Park signage: Due to the City logo and branding, Cadotte explained that the park signs should be blue and white. Previously the commission had suggested colors that matched the playground equipment.

**Kern announced the meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.**

**The next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting will be held Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.**

Minutes submitted to the Council Meeting of September 3, 2019.