

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

May 28, 2020

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Members Present: Keith Kern, Gene Rosburg, Brittany Berrens Markgren, Nick Ledin, Elizabeth Norén joined 5:05pm

Members Excused Jemal Broussard, Tom Wondolkowski

Also Present: Linda Cadotte, Russ Behlings, Caitlin Knoll, Carolyn Nelson-Kavajecz (Sterling Silver Dance Studios), Heather Holmes (North Shore SUP), Millie Rounsville (NWCSA), Kari Olson (Superior Basketball Association), Julie Rosowski (Project Graduation), Dale Johnson (Senior Connections), Wally Olson (PASS Foundation), Shelley Nelson (Superior Telegram), Terry Fransen (Challenge Center), Rob Downs (SHS Girl's Lacrosse Club), Jon Reimer (YMCA)

Meeting called to order at 5:02 p.m.

1. Election of Officers

MOTION by Ledin, seconded by Rosburg and carried to appoint Kern as chair.

MOTION by Rosburg, seconded by Ledin and carried to appoint Brittany Berrens Markgren as vice-chair.

2. Approval of minutes from May 21, 2020 Special meeting Park & Recreation minutes

MOTION by Ledin, seconded by Rosburg and carried to approve the Parks and Recreation Commission minutes of May 21, 2020.

3. Recreational Grant Recommendations

Cadotte explained that this topic is brought back from the last meeting. The floor was opened for those requesting grants to speak about their program.

- **Project Graduation** Julie Rozowski spoke on behalf of them and wants the commission to know it would be very much appreciated as they would like to give gifts to all of the seniors even though they cannot have their party.
- **Senior Connections** Dale Johnson was present and said they are still planning on having their summer picnic at the end of August. He asked if the money can be used next year if they do have to cancel this year. Kern explained that they can use it next year but the commission would ask that they do not apply for the grant next year.
- **Challenge Center** Terri Fransen was present and updated that all of their rec activities, due to COVID are on hold. They do plan to offer some alternative outdoor opportunities that meet current health regulations and will move forward with the normal events as they are able to.

- **Superior High School Girl's Lacrosse Club** Rob Downs was present and said that they are looking at possibly doing some summer stuff for lacrosse as well as some marketing and other things to try to increase their number of players.
- **Superior Basketball Association** Kari Olson confirmed that the grant will be used to pay for jerseys, shoes and basketballs and not referee expenses as the commission requested.
- **YMCA.** Jon Reimer said they plan to use the money to offer scholarships for people that could not otherwise afford a membership.
- **North Shore SUP.** Heather Holmes was present and presented a new idea on the use of funds. They would like to use it for a new program for kids that they are starting. Originally it was to be used for new paddle boards and they hope to eventually purchase more but the priority is to get the program going and allow kids to come and use them for free.
- **Northwest Community Services Agency** Millie Rounsville was present and asked about using part of the funds to pay for an electrician to install a new air conditioner they acquired. The commission felt that was outside the scope of these funds and asked that the money be used for their outdoor activities for their Memory Lane Adult Day program for persons with Alzheimer's and dementia.
- **Drift Dodgers.** Cadotte talked to them and explained that the commission requested that the \$3,000 be used for trail maintenance and they confirmed that they would be happy to dedicate the money for that purpose.
- **Performing Arts Studio Scholarship Foundation, the fiscal NP for Sterling Silver Dance Studio** Wally Olson and Carolyn Nelson-Kavjecz were present and explained that they hope to use the funds for moving some of their activities outside. They have experienced an 80% decrease in financial intake but an increasing enrollment in their programs.
- **Family Forum Head Start** Cadotte communicated with them about their request for sand and the city's willingness to donate sand instead of funds.

MOTION made by Kern, seconded by Norén and carried to go into closed session at 5:38 p.m.

MOTION by Ledin, seconded by Norén and carried to go back in to open session at 5:42 p.m.

MOTION by Kern, seconded by Rosburg and carried to allow the North Shore SUP \$1100 to be used for their recreational program as they see fit.

MOTION by Ledin, seconded by Rosburg and carried to accept the budget as presented with prior motion that was approved.

4. 2019/202 Winter Skating Recap

Cadotte gave an update on rink usage and equipment use from this past winter. Of the 7 rinks, 5 of them were open for the full time. There were some changes made to the program including adding hot water pots to make hot chocolate or apple cider. She also gave a budget update stating that the overall budget was just over \$100K which was down from last year by

about \$4,000 because of the late opening and the days the rinks had to be closed. Behlings gave an update on issues they experienced this winter due to the early snow emergency and ground that was not frozen. He shared maps that showed all of the rinks and the walking and driving times to the rinks. There were 4 primary rinks this year Wade Bowl, Billings Park, South End and Allouez. He is shifting gears more to have the Carl Gullo Park be more of a primary rink than Allouez. Costs this year were comparable to last year. This year they used more water at Red Barn and Pattison as they kept losing ice. For the last 3 years he has been tracking, last year really close to same costs. Billings Park also used a lot of water so they may do some rock in there this year and reconfigure to try to make a difference. They may look at doing the rock base at Carl Gullo or Allouez as well. Staff did a lot more work with the edger to try to get quality ice. They also made some improvements at Wade Bowl to allow the rink staff to do some touch up flooding. There was discussion surrounding water usage and Behlings mentioned that 60 – 80K gallons is probably going to be a normal season. For the rinks with gravel bases, the benefit is we didn't have to have frost in the ground for that ice to set up so it was a time savings versus water savings. They can flood those rinks with 1 truck and 1 person versus 2 people and multiple trips there with hoses on the other rinks.

MOTION by Ledin, seconded by Rosburg and carried to receive and file the 2019/2020 Winter Skating Recap.

5. Cross Country Ski Trails 2019/2020 Pass User Counts
Cadotte was hoping to have a better number but they ended at Mid-March due to COVID. There may have been a couple extra passes after that, but it is looking like just shy of 950 passes which is over \$15,000. Behlings gave a usage update stating that they purchased a few trail counters this year. They are using them the Ski Shack and Millennium trails still. They had one counter at the Osaugie Trail, but it has gone missing. The staff did 7 day grooming this year. There was discussion about trails in other cities and they were not as consistent with grooming so this caused people from across the bridge and even the Twin Cities area to come and use Superior trails. This is the first year we purchased a subscription to skinnyski.com which has helped users get updates on trail conditions. The staff also put a board in the ski shack the groomers could update with when grooming was done. They also changed the door to a door with a window so that people could look at the board anytime for an update. The 7 day grooming allowed for longer hours to be open at the Ski Shack. Due to this, they were able to utilize some of the skating staff at the ski shack to give them more hours and keep them on. There is potential for future consideration of more seasonal staff which could in turn boost the ski passes and that program.

MOTION by Kern, seconded by Ledin and carried to receive and file the Cross Country Ski Trails Report.

6. Recommendations
Behlings gave a few recommendations for long range planning. There was major work done out in forest in the last two years as far as culverts, gates and signage. With groomers spending more time out there, they are receiving user feedback about adding more solar lights, similar to Barker's Island. Possibly add Night Skiing on Red Trail. They are trying to

separate the mixed user group of the Blue and Green trails by trying to do a slight reroute on the Green and tying it into the Red to have a single crossing for skiers, motorized and mixed use. They might make use of some old trails, possibly the black ski trail and maybe others. It would be good to work with the snowmobile clubs to be able to see from their vantage point as to what needs to change or other user conflicts on the snowmobile trails. Maybe eliminate snowmobile and motorized access somewhere between the old Archery Range parking lot and 4 along the drive, but that gets a lot of ice fishing access too, so maybe looking at alternatives of the skiing areas or maybe motorized only down to the water.

Kern highly discourages changing that from Archery Parking lot (currently the disc golf parking lot) down, if we go down to the Bay area would be fine. Behlings said there might be a little access to move the Purple trail back into the woods to avoid the roads. Kern said that he would like to bring back these recommendations in the future after we get through the spring stuff.

7. Proposed 2020 Summer Playground Program

Caitlin Knoll was present to give an update. The program was cut down to 6 weeks this year, July 6 – August 14, 2020. They will not be transporting participants this year due to COVID so all programming will happen on site. They are working on having some community partners come on site since they will not be able to have field trips. They have added several precautions due to COVID including hand sanitizer, masks and gloves for food and additional cleaning procedures. They are still able to partner with the school for lunch and snack and will be reducing participant access to only staff distributing food and water. They had several returning staff which cut down on the need for new staff. In the past the budget has been around \$55K, they hope to come pretty close to that, if not under, given some expenses are less and others will be more. There was a brief discussion about purchasing water bottles for staff and participants if the budget allows as it would show that extra precautions are being taken.

8. 2020 Bayside Sounds Concert Series

Caitlin Knoll presented an update. They are still planning to hold 8 concerts this year and are currently rescheduling them for August and September. There are currently has 4 bands confirmed and she is waiting on 4 others to confirm. The concerts will start earlier in the evening to accommodate for the reduced daylight at that time of year. The title sponsor, Superior Choice Credit Union, is returning this year. Enbridge is a new sponsor this year. There are a couple other sponsors they are waiting to confirm with. Attendees will be encouraged to social distance at these concerts. Linda mentioned that UWS was going to host a bonus concert with us, but they have decided that due COVID-19, they may consider it next year. Cadotte offered a kudos to Caitlin for her super flexibility with the ever changing programming.

9. Director's Update

- a. The Superior Youth Organization agreement is up this year. They have expressed interest in continuing it. Rampage Twin Ports Fast Pitch Softball is also interested. Proposals will be requested. The SYO will be holding their season June 15 – August 21, 2020.

- b. Smoke Free parks signage has been picked up and the crew will hang those as time allows. The Tobacco Coalition helped fund these 39 signs. They also did a mockup for some new smoking receptacles and are working on ways to have those built. The Northwestern High School had hoped to help, but due to COVID cannot right now. If we can wait until fall, the school may be interested again.
- c. Arrowhead Pier – Behlings there has been some reconstruction to figure out water levels. We had extra boardwalk sections so we reutilized those sections at the attachment point at Arrowhead Pier. We came about 2 feet high and ran single section out there instead of double section. That launch has been really busy this year and it is working well and holding up well to wind. It is also ADA accessible.
- d. Barker’s Island Fishing Pier– Behlings talked about some damage that was done to the pier in the October storm. The insurance is willing to pay for a replacement but would like to make changes so this doesn’t happen again. They are considering putting in a floating platform so we aren’t tied to water levels. The initial thought was this would cost about \$40-50K and the insurance agent agreed to the cost. Behlings has been working getting estimates. There was some discussion about how fisherman would like this type of dock and there are some mixed feelings. There was a question by Rosburg about how this change might affect the causeway work planned for 2024 and since this would be a moveable dock and it not close to the causeway, it should not interfere.
- e. Disc Golf Course – The next 9 holes are prepped and ready and the baskets are on the way. Behlings is hoping to get them in in the next 2 weeks. They need to get gravel hauled in for the tee pads before they can be installed. Kern suggested using some of the counters at the disc golf courses as well.
- f. Bird City – we were awarded our Bird City for another year. Trying to figure out how to do a Migratory Bird celebration without bringing people together so potentially looking at a fall celebration.
- g. Bike Share Program - Zagster has informed us that they will no longer be providing bikes to our community. The City of Superior has not paid for the 2020 sponsorship. We have reached out to all of the sponsors to let them know of this change. The Mayor has been looking into another bike share program.
- h. Rosburg asked for an update on Webster Dream Park. The pour and place crew has been on site but due to rain, had to install a few more drain tiles. The crew discovered the initial pour was not properly installed so they removed all of what was installed and repaired the grating to spec. The zip line and half of the playground are ready for the surfacing hopefully next week.
- i. Update on Kelly Park - The initial removal and basic prep work are done so Monday/Tuesday of next week they will finish the grating work so Wednesday/Thursday they can work on framing and concrete. The playground company is looking at about 2 weeks out. They have different protocol and standards for COVID-19 so they are having a harder time to get their crews up here to this area.
- j. Public Works and Parks, Recreation & Forestry Update - The City Council voted to move the Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department back under the Public Works Department. Kern said that there was a long discussion about this on council floor and it was not a full unanimous decision. Due to this change, this committee will be seeing some changes as far as the amount of projects coming forth. We might revert

back to going to quarterly meetings. There was discussion surrounding this and we could move the meeting to quarterly and then do some site visits in between the meetings. If something pressing come up, it can run through the Public Works Committee.

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

The next regular Parks & Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted to the Council Meeting of August 4, 2020.