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## MINUTES

### PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 5:15pm

City Hall Lower Level Training Room

**5:15pm CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL** – Meeting convened at 5:17pm.

**Members Present:** Susan Reese (chair), Brandon Dobbertin, Patricia LaRue, Jim Nordgren, and Dennis Zielski

**Members Absent:** Brenda Gaulke and Hal Watson (Council Rep)

**Staff Present:** Cindi Danke-*Recreation Manager*

**Others Present:** Aaron Larson and Martin Wolf-*CVTC students*; Rick Cleary-*Kinni Off Road Cyclists (KORC)*; Ben Fochs- *local citizen*

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

**MSC Nordgren/Dobbertin to approve the minutes of the March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting. Motion passed 5-0.**

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

### OLD BUSINESS

Aaron Larson and Martin Wolf, students at Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC), updated the Park Board about their request to put up three bat houses in River Falls parks. They showed an actual bat house to the Park Board members. One may be installed near the kiln, one in the marshy area near the falls, and one near the sewage treatment plant. These CVTC students are working with Nate Croes of the City regarding exact locations. The houses will be about 10-12' off the ground on 4" x 4" posts. The students may add an informative plaque on the post. The DNR rep in Madison will get the exact GPS locations so they can monitor the bats. The CVTC class (and future years of the class) will oversee maintenance in coming years.

**MSC Zielski/ Dobbertin that Park Board supports CVTC's bat house project and the locations as discussed. Motion passed 5-0.**

Rick Cleary of Kinni Off Road Cyclists spoke about Whitetail Ridge. Last month he spoke about adding a new trail around the edge of the field that the Johnsons rent from the City. Since last month, he also spoke to Mike Stifter and Greg Koehler about getting a water spigot installed. Since it is a public park, the cost will likely be covered by the City.

**MSC Zielski/Nordgren to accept the new trail project as presented at the March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 Park Board meeting. Motion passed 5-0.**

Both the Glen Park Pavilion bid and the Glen Park Preliminary Plan were approved by City Council on April 10<sup>th</sup>, with the authorization of professional services for final design for the Glen Park Renovation Project.

**NEW BUSINESS**

City Forester Nate Croes explained the plan of adding a pollinator garden on city property just off the west parking lot on the south end of the Kinnickinnic Trail. City staff proposes a prairie-like atmosphere with wildflowers, native grasses, and milkweed that would attract bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. It will be about 4,000-5,000 square feet and may also include signage and a walking path through it. They could leave the south end open, mainly for Art on the Kinni to use the space. Besides City staff labor, a UW-RF student has volunteered ten hours of prep work, and elementary students will do some planting. The five neighbors will all be contacted by Nate. He plans to put a few trees in this area with kids or Lion's Club for Arbor Day. He would like to see this project started by Memorial Day. On another note, the City of River Falls just received the Tree City USA award for the 20<sup>th</sup> time in a row. According to the tree inventory, our city trees are approximately 40% maple trees. The City now plants diverse species and ages of trees to combat this high percentage of a single species in the city. The City is watching for the emerald ash borer because it is in neighboring areas. Some early signs of EAB are woodpecker damage in the upper bark of the tree, and exit holes in mid-May as adult insects emerge from the trees. Trees can be treated chemically after they're infected, but it is very expensive. The entire state of Wisconsin has an ash firewood quarantine which increases the risk of EAB being brought to our area through firewood movement.

Wayfinding was approved by City Council on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Pictures of signs were included in the Park Board packet. There will be three phases of sign installation.

In the packet, Amy Peterson shared the Community Development Department annual report.

The next Park Board meeting will be Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 5:15PM

**ADJOURNMENT MSC Ziekski/LaRue to adjourn the meeting at 6:20pm.**

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda Rundle, Recreation Assistant