



222 Lewis Street
River Falls, WI 54022

Phone (715)425-0900
FAX (715)425-0915

**AGENDA MEETING OF THE
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**
Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.
City Hall Training Room

5:15 p.m. CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of minutes from June 15th, 2022 of Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Non-Agenda Items

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Hoffman Park Camping
2. Updates of Park Projects
3. Outdoor Recreation Plan Steering Committee #5

ACTION ITEMS

CALENDAR

Next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting August 17, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: Any person who has a qualifying disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act that requires the meeting or materials to be in an accessible location or format, may contact City Clerk Amy White at (715) 426-3408 or in person at 222 Lewis Street, for accommodations. Requests for accommodations should be made at least three (3) business days in advance of the meeting. Every effort will be made to arrange accommodations.

Council members may be in attendance for informational purposes only.

No official Council action will be taken.

Post: City Hall Bulletin Board 07/14/2022



222 Lewis Street
River Falls, WI 54022

Phone 715-425-0900
Fax 715-425-0915

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.
City Hall Training Room

Members Present: Patricia LaRue (chair), Alyssa Mueller (Council Rep), Brandon Dobbertin, Brenda Gaulke, Melissa Pedrini

Members Absent: Matt Janquart

Staff Present: Cindi Danke-Recreation Manager; Brenda Rundle-Recreation Assistant; Mike Stifter-Public Works Director; Emily Shively-City Planner; and Kendra Ellner-Planner

Others Present: Sean Downing and Wendy Tokheim

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting convened at 5:16 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MSC Gaulke/Dobbertin to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2022 Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Carried 5-0. MSC Pedrini/LaRue to approve the notes from the May 18, 2022 workshop. Carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Non-Agenda Items

LaRue reminded Park Board that in 2019 Park Board approved the Sterling Ponds Park Plan, which included five acres of land being removed from park land and to be made neighborhood commercial instead. City Council is in the process of un-dedicating it, and many Sterling Ponds residents have voiced their concern. City Council will be discussing it on July 12.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Stephanie Falkers of SRF reviewed and updated Park Board about the Outdoor Recreation Plan. Park Board seemed to feel the six main goals looked good. A copy of the Park Facility Inventory was provided; feedback would be appreciated within two weeks. Next steps include pop-up events, a walking tour, stakeholder conversations (open to the public), a biking tour, a River Falls Days event, and a Council workshop.
2. Mike Stifter updated Park Board on current park projects. Playground equipment will be delivered soon and installed at Knollwood Park, Brandon's Park, Glen Park (donation from Golf course people), and Spring Creek (anonymous donation). The DeSanctis Schoolhouse restroom is nearly complete, and the deck and railing will be completed soon. The paving of the Hoffman Park Storm Shelter parking lot and service road around the FNBRF baseball field will be completed soon (baseball association paid about half). The Glen Park Pickleball courts have been resurfaced, but there are a few issues to be fixed. Glen Park art concept submissions will be reviewed next month.

At Wells Park, staff is looking at possibly resurfacing the courts and the resident survey results will be considered for other work there.

3. A new Bee City ad hoc committee met right before the Park Board meeting. Before applying to be a Bee City, City ordinances need to be looked at, such as if beehives are allowed in the City, and if the City supports No Mow May.

ACTION ITEMS

None


CALENDAR

The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting will be July 20, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

MSC Dobbertin/Pedrinini to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda Rundle
Customer Service Representative

DRAFT



MEMORANDUM

TO: Parks and Recreation Board

FROM: Jason Stroud, Assistant City Administrator

DATE: July 20, 2022

TITLE: City Campground

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Provide staff input and advisement on the following:

- Action(s) regarding the active enforcement of the current campground rules.
- General feedback for staff consideration and development of updated campground rules, to include possible inclusion of a “seasonal site” program.

BACKGROUND

The city currently maintains a campground at Hoffman Park with fifteen (15) campsites with electricity and five (5) tent sites without electricity. Reservations are not currently accepted for the campground. The 2015 Hoffman Park Master Plan does not include the long-term placement of the campground in Hoffman Park.

Other than Hoffman Park, the closest campgrounds to River Falls include the Willow River State Park, the New Richmond Municipal Campground, the federal campgrounds (Highland Park) at the Eau Galle reservoir and the Lake Elmo Park campground.

This season there have been a number of campers that have asked to stay beyond the 14-day limit. This has been due to illness, houselessness, or other related reasons. City staff permitted some excessive stays from the start of the season as an effort to try to, compassionately, work with individuals and their unique needs. These allowances were done so with the staff understanding that it would not be in perpetuity for the season, and once demand for sites increased the rules would be actively enforced.

There is at least one camper that has remained in the campground since its opening in April. On June 6 I met with the camper and advised him we would begin to enforce the 14-day rule. I also informed him that even though he had been camping there since April 15, we would start the 14-day “clock” from June 6; this would require him to vacate the campground on Monday, June 20. This camper has not left the campground and refuses to do so. It should be noted that to date, he has paid for all nights stayed in the campground.

DISCUSSION

The campground is open from April 15 through October 31 each year. The following are the posted rules that have been previously adopted by the Park Board:

1. Site with electricity is \$20.00/night. Tent site without electricity is \$10.00/night.
2. Pay camping fees first night of stay for your length of visit or daily by 9:00AM.
3. Length of stay 14 days in and 7 days out for campsites, Nonelectric sites/Tents are 5-day rule. Stays longer than 14 days needs approval from the City of River Falls. Call 715-425-0924.
4. Check out time is 2:00PM.
5. Quiet time is 11:00PM.
6. Clean up your camping site before leaving.
7. No parking on the grass.
8. Move tent location every few days to prevent grass damage, if not in tenting area.
9. Pets must be leashed. Owner promptly removes and disposes of, in a sanitary manner, any excreta deposited by a pet. (Municipal Code 12.04 (9) (c)).
10. The City of River Falls assumes no responsibility for theft, damage or injury.

The length of stay rule closely mirrors the Wisconsin State Park camping rules which limits stays to 14 days within any 21-day period. The city has home-rule authority and can legally establish its own rules for its facilities. In addition, there are park rules that apply as well since the campground is within a park.

Staff's experience in managing the campground is that most campers follow the rules and pay the nightly fee without issue. From time-to-time there are those that do not follow the rules, are late in paying or leave without paying.

CONCLUSION

Staff would like feedback and advisement on the following related matters from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board:

- Is the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board satisfied with the current posted rules for the remainder of the 2022 camping season?
- Should any campers that have currently exceeded the 14-day limit be required to leave? If so, should they be allowed to return during this season if they have not followed this posted rule?
- Staff will likely consider proposed updates to the rules for the Park Board to contemplate for the 2023 season. These may include transitioning to a reservation system, allocating some sites to seasonal use, evaluating fees, etc. Are there any other particular updates that Board members think staff should consider for the next season?

RIVER FALLS OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #4

Wednesday, July 20 | 5:15pm

1

INTRODUCTIONS

- Introductions and Icebreaker
 - o What is one recreation element, toy, or activity from your childhood you would like to bring back to popularity

2

GOAL UPDATE

- Goal Updates

3

OUTDOOR RECREATION INVENTORY

- Inventory Updates and Refinements

4

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- Needs Assessment Quantitative Results
- Qualitative Assessment – What do we need to confirm with the public? What recreation (passive/active) elements that were not included in the analysis do we need to gather feedback on?

5

NEXT STEPS

- Upcoming Events – Pop-Up Events
- Stakeholder Meeting Update – July 21st and 22nd