



222 Lewis Street
River Falls, WI 54022

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

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.
City Hall Training Room

Members Present: Patricia LaRue (chair), Brandon Dobbertin, Brenda Gaulke, Matt Janquart
Melissa Pedrini, and Sean Downing (Council Rep)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Cindi Danke-Recreation Manager; Brenda Rundle-Recreation Assistant; Mike
Stifter-Public Works Director; Amy Peterson-Community Development Director;
Kendra Ellner-Planner

Others Present: None

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting convened at 5:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MSC Pedrini/Gaulke to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2022 Recreation Advisory Board Meeting. Carried 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Stifter shared photos of some playground proposals for playground equipment at Brandon's Park, Knollwood Park, and one section at Glen Park.

Cindi Danke shared that the first two days of recreation registration went very well.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Stephanie Falkers of SRF Consulting updated Park Board about the Outdoor Recreation Plan. Nearly 300 people have registered at the engagerf.org website. Stephanie shared a summary of feedback from the open house. Parks were the number one item that people listed as something that River Falls can be proud of. Results from the open house also showed that favorite outdoor recreation activities in River Falls are walking, biking, hiking, kayaking, swimming, cross-country skiing, baseball, and gardening. When asked what outdoor rec activities they wish were available, residents hoped for a pool (zero depth entry or indoor), nature preserve/nature center, ice skating, cross-country skiing, skate park, trails, water recreation, kayak launch, and mini golf; other activities were also identified in smaller numbers. In order to possibly receive DNR grant money, the Outdoor Recreation Plan requires four things: physical and social description of the region, inventory of natural resources and facilities, needs assessment, and recommendations. The plan will project out 20 years, and it will need to be updated every five years. Along with public input about what is wanted/needed, we can also look at the National Recreation and

Parks Association (NRPA) Needs Assessment to help determine standard recommended measures of things like how many parks, baseball fields, and playgrounds River Falls should have based on population and other factors. As the steering committee for the Outdoor Recreation Plan, the Park Board will get an inventory matrix and community survey results and will help make some recommendations in upcoming months. There will be some future pop-up events to hear more from the community.

2. Council member Sean Downing spoke about River Falls applying to become a Bee City USA. An auxiliary committee of six to eight members would develop a formal resolution over a period of six to eight months. The committee would need to create support for pollinators by having a bee-friendly habitat, reducing use of pesticides, incorporating pollinator friendly practices/plans and hosting pollinating events. The auxiliary committee would consist of a council rep (Downing), a City staff member (Stifter), a chairperson, and other interested persons. The committee would prepare a resolution for City Council to consider. After the six-to-eight-month period, the resolution would be passed over to the Park Board to be the standing committee. Danke recommended exploring this further to find out the extent of the commitment, such as annual requirements and fees.

MSC Downing/Gaulke in favor of creating an auxiliary committee to explore the possibility of writing a resolution and applying to become a Bee City USA and presenting the resolution to City Council. Carried 6-0.

ACTION ITEMS

None

CALENDAR

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

ADJOURNMENT

MSC Dobbertin/Downing to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda Rundle
Customer Service Representative