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PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.
City Hall Training Room

Members Present: Patricia LaRue (chair), Brandon Dobbertin, Brenda Gaulke, Matt Janquart and Natasha Schaefer.

Members Absent: Scott Morrissette (Council Rep) and Melissa Pedrini.

Staff Present: Cindi Danke-Recreation Manager; Brenda Rundle-Recreation Assistant; Amy White-Administrative Services Manager/City Clerk; and Ellen Massey-Management Analyst Fellow.

Others Present: Sean Downing, Ben Fochs, Trevor Novacek

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting convened at 5:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MSC Gaulke/Janquart to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2023 Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting. Carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Non-Agenda Items

Sean Downing invited everyone to Earth Fest on Saturday and passed out postcards encouraging people to support a toxic free DeSanctis Park and to join the Bee City committee.

Patricia LaRue reminded Park Board that it is probably time to give a Park Board report to City Council because it has been a long time.

ACTION ITEMS

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. A professional arborist named Trevor Novacek spoke about a proposed two- or three-day Wisconsin Arborists Association (WAA) Tree Climbing Competition at Glen Park in August or September of 2024. This competition is usually held on the other side of the state, but this would be a good location due to all the arborists in the Twin Cities. He said that Glen Park has fabulous trees. Safety is a priority for their event. The 28-40 participants would use about six trees, and only remove dead wood before the event. Trevor passed around some photos or previous competitions. He indicated that the group is very self-sufficient but was advised that they need to fill out a special event application, then return to park board to answer additional questions and get a park board motion of approval; then it would go to City Council. Park Board indicated a lot of interest in the event and likes that it would bring visitors to River Falls, and a preliminary

show of hands from board members was unanimous to move forward with learning more about this event.

2. There was a discussion about the 5:15pm park board meeting time. By having a later time, some members could come after work, and the meeting could be held in the Council Chambers. There were a variety of opinions on the subject. Amy will double check on the juvenile court schedule, which affects use of the Council Chambers. Proposals will be offered in the future for further discussion. If the meeting continues in the Training Room, the physical set-up of the room could be considered (fitting for guest speakers, screen presentations and also guests). Formality vs. informality was discussed.

STAFF REPORTS

1. Cindi reported that the campground is 36% reserved for the summer and online reservations are going well. This weekend is full for the Bluegrass Festival. There are new signs with QR codes at the campground. Recreation classes are filling up. The splash pad should open mid-May and the pool should open to the public on Friday, June 9.
2. Cindi read the following notes from Public Works Manager Erica Ellefson. Public Works has been picking up downed City tree branches from the April 1st blizzard. New playground equipment has been ordered for Collins, Sterling Ponds, DeSanctis, and Wells Parks with installation tentatively scheduled for August. There was some damage at one Glen Park pickleball court by someone perhaps trying to remove ice, and a contractor has been hired to make repairs. The HPC Glen Park sign should be installed next week, weather dependent. The Mayor's cookout will be held in City parks again this summer.

ADJOURNMENT

MSC Janquart/Schaefer to adjourn the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

CALENDAR

The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting will be May 10, 2023 with HPC at 6:00pm. Park Board may meet at 5:30pm if there are agenda items to discuss first.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda Rundle
Customer Service Representative