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PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.
Virtual meeting (public via call-in as listed on agenda)

Members Present: Patricia LaRue (Chair), Sean Downing (Council Rep), Brandon Dobbertin, Brenda Gaulke, Matt Janquart, and Jim Nordgren, and Melissa Pedrini.
Members Absent: None.
Staff Present: Cindi Danke-*Recreation Coordinator*; Mike Stifter-*Operations Director*; Mike Noreen-*Conservation and Efficiency Coordinator and City Forester*; and Brenda Rundle-*Recreation Assistant*.
Others Present: None.

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting convened at 5:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MSC Gaulke/Nordgren to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2021 Recreation Advisory Board Meeting. Carried 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Continuing from an introductory discussion last month, Mike Stifter led a discussion about Park Board ideas for the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects for 2022-2026. A thorough list of project ideas will be available to discuss next month.

Some members of Park Board have seen a skate park discussion on Facebook, but Park Board is not able to make it a priority at this time. This would be an opportunity for private fundraising and grants.

The newly drained Lake Louise is City land. As a first step, it has been overseeded for spring to stabilize the soil. People are advised to stay away from that muddy area for everyone's safety.

Disc Golf at Sterling Ponds was discussed, but there is still no word about permission from the DNR. A beginner's course would be safer at Sterling Ponds than at DeSanctis. It could be located at the base of the hill, avoiding wetlands.

Park Board recognizes that some City residents would like to see more ice-skating opportunities in River Falls, however Park Board is not able to make it a priority because good, smooth ice and a way to maintain it is very expensive and outdoor rinks need to be flooded around midnight which is a staffing

issue. During the winter, UWRF has public open skate for a fee twice per week at their indoor rink, but the hockey association does not offer any public open skate at their indoor or outdoor rink. Park Board thinks it would be nice if the hockey association would allow local citizens (who support them through fundraising and voting events) to skate occasionally for a fee, even if it's at random, occasional times that could be posted online.

Downing advocated for adding a dog park in or near DeSanctis Park and Sterling Ponds.

Public Works projects on the schedule include crack filling at the Glen Park Pickleball Courts in preparation for resurfacing next summer, getting the pool and splash pad ready, re-doing a trail section at Hoffman Park, reseeding at the new jug handle, and ash tree removal around town to stay ahead of Emerald Ash Borer. At DeSanctis Park, the schoolhouse will be re-sided, and a bathroom will be installed. The east trail project there is scheduled for mid-May. Last week Public Works staff cleared up a lot of underbrush and buckthorn at Larson Park, while saving the best trees. A small playground will be installed at Knollwood Park in 2022, and the City may work with a local resident on installing a half basketball court there.

New City Forester Mike Noreen spoke about putting 125 bare root trees into the gravel bed for use this fall, and he led tree-planting events with schools and other groups. School groups, businesses, and clubs have also been doing some clean-up projects around town.

Cindi Danke gave an update on summer projects and programs. Recreation activities are filling up, and shelter reservations are way up this year. The Hoffman Park Campground is now open for the season. The dump station is now \$5.00. It was \$2.00 for many years. It is free for paid campers.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

MSC Janquart/Gaulke to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda Rundle
Recreation Assistant