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MINUTES
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 5:15pm
City Hall Lower Level Training Room

- Members Present:** Susan Reese (Chair), Sean Downing (Council Rep), Brandon Dobbertin, Brenda Gaulke, Patricia LaRue, Jim Nordgren and Melissa Pedrini
- Members Absent:** None
- Staff Present:** Cindi Danke-*Recreation Manager*; Brenda Rundle-*Recreation Assistant*; Reid Wronski-*City Engineer*; Amy Peterson-*Development Services Director*; and Nate Croes-*City Forester*
- Others Present:** Chris Gagne-*City Council Member*; Heidi Heinze-*Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) member*

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting convened at 5:15pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MSC Nordgren/Downing to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2019 Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting. Motion passed 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Heidi Heinze of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) shared photos and information about Glen Park history. In 1898 the River Falls City Council approved the purchase of 21 acres of land south of the falls and glen in an area known as, "Powell Woods." Later it was known as, "City Park." A rustic log "kitchen" was built by the River Falls Improvement League (men's group). In 1912 the Women's Improvement League raised money to build a restroom at the park, and they had a newer lodge built, which was destroyed by a tornado in 1953. Bicycling became popular around the turn of the century, so a "bicycle track" was laid out in the park in 1899. There was a pathway called "Lover's Lane." Tobogganing and ice skating were also popular in this park. From 1923 to the 1940's there was a zoo at the park. The Glen Park Pool was built during the depression in 1933-1937. The pool and bathhouse cost \$6,000. Previous bridges were often damaged or washed out, so the Women's Improvement League raised money and the Swinging Bridge was planned and then completed in the fall of 1925 at a cost of \$4,000. It was restored in 1985.

The Activity Guide has been published and distributed, and registration has been going well on the new software. The software tracks residents and non-residents, so staff believes there may be increased income this year via the non-resident fees. Parks and Rec received Allina Health Neighborhood Health Connection grants for three adult classes: Yoga on the Kinni, Boot Camp in the Park, and a Pickleball Clinic.

NEW BUSINESS

City Engineer Reid Wronski updated Park Board about the future Department of Transportation (DOT) jug handle project at Hoffman Park. The camping dump station will need to be moved. This DOT project will reduce the amount of stadium parking. The project is planned for the summer of 2020. Some prep work will occur this summer. Two houses are being purchased by the City. Hoffman Park will be open and accessible during the entire project.

Wronski also updated Park Board about the Glen Park updates. The new storm shelter / pavilion is under construction and on schedule to be completed by fall. Some maintenance will be done on the Swinging Bridge in June. The open field will be available for soccer. It is the hope that play equipment may be donated or funded by an external source, but the existing play equipment will be available to use.

Amy Peterson informed Park Board that the River Falls Baseball Council has received a \$850,000 grant to install artificial turf at the First National Bank of River Falls Field at Hoffman Park. The Baseball Council has been informed of future reduced parking in conjunction with the DOT jug handle project and reminded that they need to continue providing portable toilets. Staff anticipates changes to the lease agreement due to the artificial turf, and this will be coming through Council via Park Board.

Cindi Danke informed Park Board members that they have some funds available to go to conferences and training opportunities. She will share meeting agendas in the future and see if Park Board members are interested in attending.

OLD BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

MSC Reese/LaRue to adjourn the meeting at 6:15pm. Motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda Rundle, Recreation Assistant