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MINUTES

Wednesday, May 15, 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, and Melissa Pedrini.

Members Absent: Jim Nordgren

Staff Present: Cindi Danke-*Recreation Manager*; Brenda Rundle-*Recreation Assistant*; Reid Wronski – *City Engineer*; Nate Croes–*City Forrester*; Sam Wessel - *Planner*

Others Present: Ben Fochs – *local citizen*

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting convened at 5:15pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MSC Dobbertin/Downing to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2019 Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting. Motion passed 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

City Engineer Reid Wronski showed current photos of construction at Glen Park. Winter was tough, but construction progress has been going very well lately. The project is on schedule to be completed in the fall. The nature playgrounds will be added later based on donors. Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) has been working on suggestions for panel artwork for the side of the pavilion.

NEW BUSINESS

City Planner Sam Wessel spoke about the Sterling Ponds Park Plan. The neighborhood's mix of housing types has changed considerably since the existing park was first created over fifteen years ago. The park planning process includes analysis, evaluation, neighborhood and City Staff feedback, neighborhood surveys, and a draft of a plan with proposed improvements. These steps should be completed by fall 2019.

City Forester Nate Croes gave an annual forestry report. River Falls meets the requirements to be a Tree City USA. River Falls has an annual Forestry budget of slightly over \$4/capita. Nate works with many schools and organizations to educate people and plant trees. There are approximately 8,000 managed trees within the city, not including green spaces. Approximately 50 mature trees are removed every year (due to diseases or damage). Approximately 120 trees are planted every year. Over 1,200 trees were pruned in 2018. 25% of trees in our City are ash trees, which can be wiped out by the emerald ash borer, which has been found as close at Hudson, but it has not yet reached River Falls. 35% of trees in the City are various types of maple. The City is trying to diversify. The City has a gravel tree bed, which allows the City to purchase bare root trees in April and plant them by fall. The bare-root gravel system allows roots to grow well, and there is a better transplant success, more stock selection, and healthier trees. They are lightweight and a fraction of the cost. It is also more space efficient. Nate can be contacted at ncroes@rfcity.org with any forestry questions.

ADJOURNMENT

MSC Reese/Gaulke to adjourn the meeting at 6:30pm. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda Rundle, Recreation Assistant