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MINUTES

Wednesday, July 17, 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*;
Amy Peterson-*Development Services Director*; Nate Croes-*City Forrester*;
Mike Stifter-*Operations Director*

Others Present: Rick Cleary-*Kinni Off-Road Cyclist (KORC) group*

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting convened at 5:15pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MSC Gaulke/Nordgren to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2019 Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting. Motion passed 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Melissa Pedrini lives near Brandon's Park and says there are many young children in that neighborhood. She says the park run down; kids mainly play baseball there. The slide is metal and the sand under the equipment is very weedy. She understands it is not City play equipment (it was put up by a neighbor thirty or more years ago). They sometimes go Rocky Branch or other nearby playgrounds. The City will take care of a downed limb across the picnic table. Park Board suggested a neighborhood work night and grill out.

NEW BUSINESS

Rick Cleary shared Kinni Off-Road Cyclist (KORC) group's new Whitetail Ridge Master Plan. KORC wants Park Board to know their vision and their desire for expansion. Whitetail Ridge is a City park, with many trails that were developed and are maintained by KORC. KORC has also been using Lot C. There is a memorandum of understanding already in place between KORC and the City. KORC feels they bring a lot of bikers and hence money to River Falls. As they look to the future, they are hoping to get more permanent access to Lot C. They will lose at least one large race if they lose lot C. KORC needs a wide-open space of about 4.5 acres to accomplish their goals, which includes a large open start/finish area. Amy Peterson said there is currently an option on Lot C, which KORC did not know about until this meeting. Now Cleary is worried that

it will be sold before they have a chance to explore other options. KORC understands that it's a very valuable lot in a Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District. With new information about a possible sale of lot C, KORC now asks to have the offer put on hold while they look at some options. KORC would need two or three years to find a business partner and/or enough corporate sponsors and donors to raise enough money to buy the lot. Park Board and the City support KORC, but Lot C may be a hard sell. If KORC loses lot C, then they lose funding; LaRue mentioned that if they lose funding and can't upkeep the trails, then it falls to the City to maintain. Reese suggests that KORC meets with Scot Simpson and asks Scot if KORC could also meet with the potential buyer. Perhaps a corporate partnership could be worked out. LaRue feels that if the City seems willing to spend on kayakers and baseball, they should also be willing to support KORC, which has a proven track record of supporting themselves, taking care of the trails, and bringing a lot of economic business to River Falls. Although Park Board and the City highly supports KORC, it may not be able to support it using Lot C because of the value of the land and the tax increments. Reese would like to see a corporate sponsor that is already located in the corporate park help them out.

MSC Gaulke/Dobbertin that the Park Board strongly suggests that KORC meets with the City Administrator and potential buyers for the use of the property out at Lot C, with the Park Board's full support. Motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Cindi Danke shared some photos and prices of a few nearby shelter buildings. As Park Board thinks about pricing, Reese would like a reference sheet of other shelters with a photo, square footage, price, and any other pertinent information.

ADJOURNMENT

MSC Dobbertin/Downing to adjourn the meeting at 6:25pm. Motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda Rundle, Recreation Assistant