



PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING – September 19, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT

X Judy Zaretzke	X Kate Hancock - Cooke	X Gary Lawell
X Peter Kelly	X Jim Vedder	X Ted Galloway
X Lee Hillstrom	X Amanda Loudon	X Christopher Kunz

STAFF PRESENT

X Michael T. Kading, Director of Parks & Recreation
X Jim Kluge, Superintendent of Recreation
X Trevor Fink, Superintendent of Parks
X Stephanie Schott, Recreation Supervisor
X Clint Williams, Park Supervisor

OTHERS PRESENT: Alex Schultz, Sculpture Valley; Dwight Kerr; Mayor Kaufert; Alderperson Boyette.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY Commissioner Lawell at 4:33 P.M.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

APPEARANCES

Mr. Kerr thanked the Commission for the new garbage cans that have been placed along the Loop the Lake trail. He inquired about the recently acquired property by Cook Park and the possibility of the city acquiring the next property. Indicated that he took a poll of the neighborhood, and the overwhelming response was to recommend Almost Infinity for the sculpture.

MINUTES

MSC Hillstrom / Zaretzke to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2019. All voting aye.

BILL VOUCHERS

Commissioner Lawell reviewed the vouchers for July and found them to be in order.

MISSION ACTION REPORT

The report was distributed earlier. The following items were discussed:

- Commissioner Lawell shared a story from a local Washington Park resident about how her family's members used to live near the park but sold their property for the development of the park.
 - Commissioner Galloway inquired about the amount raised during "Drool in the Pool." Superintendent Kluge indicated that attendance was down a bit, but \$1,200 was raised.
 - Commissioner Galloway commented that it was awesome to see all of the kids/adults having fun on the new Scheels Discovery Field during the Grand Re-Opening of Washington Park.
 - Commissioner Zaretzke predicted years of joy to come.
 - Commission Lawell asked how the Self Defense class would be advertised. Superintendent Kluge said that the primary method of marketing would be Facebook, and then followed up with the Rec Guide.
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- Commissioner Hancock-Cooke shared that Sara Bergstrom was the individual who promoted the idea of purchasing land and developing the park now known as Washington Park.
- Commissioner Galloway complimented staff on a well-planned Washington Park Grand Re-Opening event.

BUSINESS FOR CONSIDERATION

BUSINESS ITEM #1: Proposed Art Sculpture for W. Northwater

Director Kading introduced the three possible sculptures to be placed at the W. Northwater Street landing. He indicated that the Commission's responsibility was not to evaluate the art but to select the art. No matter the choice, it will be debated with some liking it and others not.

The difficulty with public art is there seems to be a push to have it in our communities, but the dollars to lease or purchase and install the art are limited. If we could find someone to commission art, then we could have more say as to what the art would look like.

Director Kading then introduced Alex Schultz, a representative from Sculpture Valley. Alex indicated that his team sends out RFP's for 2 year, leased art and solicits for donors to cover the costs. Sculpture Valley is responsible for installation, liability, and removal of the art. The city is providing the place for the art.

Commissioner Kunz inquired about the process used to select the art.

Action Needed: MSC Loudon / Vedder to approve the "Better Days" sculpture as submitted by Sculpture Valley for placement at the W. Northwater Street trestle landing. All voting aye.

BUSINESS ITEM #2: Service Levels - Winter

- Director Kading introduced the topic that the Commission had requested to be placed on the agenda for discussion purposes. Kading noted that there are two views to consider service levels – one being the customer experience and the other, our fiduciary responsibility.
- Superintendent Fink distributed the City of Neenah – Maintenance Standards for Parks and Facilities. Fink reviewed the information specifically related to the winter park activities, indicating that there is a flow to snow removal, making the ice rinks, and making the cross-country ski trails.
- Commissioner Galloway commented that the rink at Washington looked awesome in 2019 even though excessive snow from mid-January – March.
- Commission Lawell recommended the elimination of the cross-country trail making activity to put more effort into trail plowing.

- Commissioner Kunz indicated that he would rather see us focus on specific sites vs Green/Memorial ice rinks as this is the location that has the support facilities and historical numbers.
- Commissioner Hancock-Cooke asked what the driving force behind this discussion is: financial resources, theory, and/or education?

- Director Kading responded that it seemed to be a bit of all the above. Financially, resources are limited, therefore, we want to make sure that we are using wisely, somewhat theoretically but certainly part of educating the Commission on how staff approaches these specific activities and we need support.
- Commissioner Galloway clarified how the rotation works for developing of the rinks... Washington Park – 1 truck load of water, and then a truck refill with half going to Memorial and the remaining water going down at Green, then repeat. This rotation allows for drying/hardening of the water.
- Superintendent Kluge pointed out that staff enters the winter season with the intent to open all three rinks. However, once we move into January we need to hone in our focus.
- Commissioner Kunz felt that long term sustainability should be the focus.
- Commissioner Hancock-Cooke replied that this should come with long term philosophy of how we operate the system.
- Superintendent Fink noted that snow removal completed on weekends is Loop the Lake, reservations for our shelters and then Washington Park Ice Rink. Remaining areas are plowed on Monday.
- Consensus from the discussion:
 - ✓ Staff will continue to maintain the current three ice rinks with the focus on Washington Park.
 - ✓ Snow removable would continue to be performed as described by Superintendent Fink. Internal trails will not be plowed.
 - ✓ Cross – Country trails will not be groomed.

Announcements & Future Agenda Items

LIAISON REPORTS

PLANS COMMISSION: Hancock-Cooke reported that the property located at the NE corner of Main and N. Lake has been sold and will be redeveloped. Trees will remain.

HARBOR COMMITTEE: Galloway reported that a Watershed Stakeholders meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16 beginning at 6:30p (1619 E. Capital, Appleton).

MSC Hillstrom / Loudon to adjourn at 5:48p.

Recorded for the Commission by Michael T. Kading, CPRP