



PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING – May 11, 2020

Conducted via conference call due to COVID-19. All motions were conducted by roll call vote.

MEMBERS PRESENT

X	Judy Zaretzke	X	Kate Hancock - Cooke	X	Gary Lawell
X	Peter Kelly (arrived at 4:36p)	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

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY Commissioner Lawell at 4:32 P.M.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

APPEARANCES

None.

MINUTES

MSC Hancock-Cooke / Galloway to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2020 meeting. Motion carries with an 8-0 vote in favor to approve the minutes.

BILL VOUCHERS

Review of the vouchers for March and April were approved.

MISSION ACTION REPORT

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

- Superintendent of Parks Fink reported that park staff is planting trees; finished the seawall repairs at Doty; rebuilt the deck at Kimberly Point; completing concrete work at Liberty Park; developed a tree protection and planting plan for Lakeshore Drive; and trail construction. Working towards getting all restrooms opened by June 15; pool will be filled beginning May 26 in anticipation of June 12 opening.
 - Superintendent of Recreation Kluge reported that the pool will be opened on June 12; finalizing staff w/orientation scheduled for May 30 / 31. Expressed thanks for the approval to purchase a new recreation vehicle - the Transit will be very useful. Cancelled Riverside Players performances, however, will be hosting “You Can’t Stop The Beat, A Summer Concert,” July 30 – August 2.
 - Recreation Supervisor Schott informed the Commission that the daily “Digital Day” program will end after 45 days; story walk at Southview was very popular; 520 individuals are participating in the May Quarantine 50K; developing the June “Cycle into Summer 50,” summer staff orientation is scheduled for May 17; in order to not exceed the 50 individuals per site guideline, both the
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Brigade and Washington Park will be utilized for OP REC program which means programs at Washington needed to be moved to other park facilities. Other programs will meet the 1:10 ratio guidelines.

Commissioner Lawell complimented staff on the great recreation guide, "Be the Spark in the Park." Great colors and well organized. Bummer that many of the programs will need to be altered and/or cancelled.

BUSINESS FOR CONSIDERATION

BUSINESS ITEM #1: Re-Opening Plan Update

Director Kading presented the Re-Opening Plan chart with specific dates for a phased-in approach to re-opening the park system and offering summer recreation programs.

There was concern expressed by Commissioners regarding opening the pool and hosting our programs amidst the COVID-19 situation and whether staff would be required to wear masks. Commissioner Hancock-Cooke stated that she wanted to go on record that she is opposed to the department's decision to open the pool and hold programs. Commissioner Kunz is concerned how we can expect 16 yr-olds to lifeguard and monitor social distancing recommendations. Director Kading responded that the department has been working with Winnebago County Health Dept to meet suggested guidelines. As participation in recreation programs and going to a park is a personal choice, staff feels comfortable moving forward. We will welcome those who wish to attend and fully refund those who choose not to participate in 2020. We look forward to seeing them in 2021.

Commissioner Galloway mentioned the CDC findings that suggest COVID-19 cannot survive on hard surfaces.

Leased groups are slowly moving forward with programs as prescribed by lead organizations.

The Y intends to utilize Memorial Park and spread out.

Baseball is considering a summer league.

Soccer is following the state organizations guidelines of cancelling spring/summer leagues and considering a fall league.

Lacrosse is looking to begin practices June.

Sailing Club is planning on hosting programs in a modified fashion.

NNYC is going to host Tuesday racing, unsure of Thursday racing.

BUSINESS ITEM #2: Wisconsin Boating Grant Application

Staff presented a memo detailing the plan to dredge Rec Park boat launch during the fall of 2020. The department has an opportunity to apply for a Wisconsin Boating Grant through which 50% of the cost of the project could be offset. Staff requested a recommendation to take a resolution to Council authorizing the grant application.

Action Needed: MSC Kelly / Galloway to recommend a resolution to Council authorizing the Park and Recreation Department to apply for a Wisconsin Boating Grant to offset the cost of the Rec Park dredging project.

BUSINESS ITEM #3: Announcements & Future Agenda Items

LIAISON REPORTS

PLANS COMMISSION: Hancock-Cooke – nothing to report.

HARBOR COMMITTEE: Galloway reported that the Committee met; buoys are in place, some needed minor adjustments; after 30 years Doty Seawall is likely to need to be replaced; Neenah Paper Seawall is failing, however, it is not likely to be replaced until it fails completely; lake is icy, as expected.

MSC Hancock-Cooke / Loudon to adjourn at 5:53p.

Recorded for the Commission by Michael T. Kading, CPRP