



PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Commission Retreat – April 18, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT

X	Jim Wise	X	Kate Hancock – Cooke	X	Gary Lawell
X	Peter Kelly	X	Eric Maggio	X	Ted Galloway
X	Lee Hillstrom	X	Ashley Ondresky	X	Scott Weber

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: Brad Schmidt, Deputy Director of Community Development

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY Commissioner Kelly at 4:40 P.M.

Distribution of Annual Report: The 2023 Annual Report was distributed with recognition going to Maggie for dedication in completing this project on behalf of the department.

City of Neenah’s Comprehensive Plan: Community Development Deputy Director Brad Schmidt was on hand to give a brief overview of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan and the impact it has on park development, as well as the impact the parks have on the planning process. The Commission felt that this should be part of the annual review process.

Future Land Consideration: The Commission reviewed both current and future development opportunities throughout the system. The Commission requested that staff provide cost estimates to improve the bathroom facility and play area at Douglas Park. The 4 acres of new park land in the Freedom Meadows subdivision was reviewed, and funding has been requested in 2027/28 for park development. Lastly, the Commission reviewed the potential placement of a stormwater facility at Rec Park. There were several questions regarding the need for stormwater facilities, safety, and the impact of such a facility on limited boat trailer parking.

A draft copy of the Parks & Recreation Commission Policies was distributed. Director Kading indicated that this reflects current policies and practices that exist but have not been written down and collected in place. The purpose of doing this is to clarify policies that the Commission needs to own and to create a written living document that can be used consistently. The draft policies will be brought to the May Commission meeting for approval.

City of Neenah Cultural Initiative: Recreation Supervisor Schott gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the cultural initiative that City employees have been undergoing over the past year. The mission and four components have been shared with all staff, and plans are being outlined to continue the cultural initiative.

Mission / Vision: Commission President Kelly indicated that we have been waiting for the completion of the City’s cultural initiative before starting the mission/vision work so that we could be alignment with these values. Commissioner Kelly will set up a task force to address this in the future.

MSC Lawell / Hillstrom to adjourn at 6:22p.

Recorded for the Commission by Michael T. Kading, CPRP