



PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING – February 15, 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
	Trevor Fink, Superintendent of Parks
X	Stephanie Schott, Recreation Supervisor

OTHERS PRESENT: Frank Cuthbert, Mike Fahrenkrug, Alderperson Kathie Boyette, Jill Fritsch, Patti Julius, Cemetery Foreman Alberts

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY Commissioner Kelly at 4:30 P.M.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

APPEARANCES

Ms. Boyette stated that she wanted to encourage the Commission to move forward with a monument to honor wars and conflicts that have occurred after Vietnam. She is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and has had several conversations with individuals about how this might become reality.

Ms. Julius was also in favor of the monument at the cemetery and asked the Commission to support the development.

Commissioner Hancock-Cooke indicated that she attended the Common Council meeting last week to address the Douglas Park Pond, more specifically fencing the pond. She feels there is a safety concern given the current use of the land being a park being converted to a stormwater pond. She further stated that individuals with autism are more likely to be drawn to water and drown and that it only takes seconds for this to occur.

MINUTES

MSC Galloway / Lawell to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2024 meeting. All voting aye.

BILL VOUCHERS

Commissioner Kelly reviewed the vouchers for January and found them to be in order.

MISSION ACTION REPORT

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

- Director Kading reported that the 2012 Stewardship Grant Reimbursement Request was submitted as of today. The scope of service was changed to cover the pier at Arrowhead Park.
- Commissioner Hillstrom inquired about summer hiring. Superintendent Kluge indicated that interviews were ongoing but felt that summer positions will be covered at the pool. Recreation Supervisor Schott indicated the same for recreation positions and that a promising individual was recently interviewed for the Summer Recreation Coordinator position. Commissioner Kelly asked about the mental health/behavior position. Staff responded that the Recreation Coordinator position would be hired to focus on behavior management.
- Commissioner Galloway asked about the Carpenter Preserve meeting went last week. President Kelly indicated that the meeting was well attended and overall positive with a few individuals upset. Commissioner Hancock-Cooke was concerned about the number of individuals who were against the trail alignment. Resident Frank Cuthbert felt that there was a missing link in the communication as he has followed the progress of the plan approval and that not all of the residents understood the process. Commissioner Weber indicated that volunteer Andrews is looking for help in communicating and planning volunteer activities at the park.
- Commissioner Kelly inquired about the reciprocity agreement. Kluge stated that the program had run its course, and more specifically, because we do not have a non-resident rate, residents from other communities can come at no further expense. Kluge shared that 20 Neenah residents went to Appleton and 200 to Menasha, while 3 pool programs, 2 pool passes, and 64 facility reservations were utilized by the other two communities in Neenah. Commissioner Lawell stated that when this was started in the 90s, the major push was due to the softball community wanting flexibility to play in various leagues. Adult softball as a rec program does not exist.
- Commissioner Hancock-Cooke asked what the final output from the Little Lake study would be. Director Kading responded that the outcome is two-fold – one is to bring together the communities and individuals utilizing LLBDM and develop a management plan, and the second is an aquatic management plan to be used by the City to manage weeds near Arrowhead and Herb and Dolly.

BUSINESS FOR CONSIDERATION

BUSINESS ITEM #1: Cemetery – Monument Discussion

Director Kading reviewed the information found in the Commission notes and introduced Cemetery Foreman Mark Alberts. Alberts commented that he has been working with Ms. Fritsch, and there are several considerations that need to be taken into account, such as size, location, and maintenance.

Ms. Fritsch made a brief presentation indicating that she would propose a four-sided sphere recognizing the conflicts and branches involved. Overall cost minus artwork and concrete base would likely be \$11,764-\$12,857. The proposed monument would be 6 feet tall and 26” by 26” at the base.

Action: After much discussion, it was determined that a task force would be developed to bring forth a recommendation to the Commission. Hancock-Cooke, Maggio, Ondresky, and Lawell volunteered to serve in addition to Jill Fritsch and staff Fink, Alberts, and Kading.

BUSINESS ITEM # 2: Commission Retreat Date / Topics

The suggestion was made to host the retreat on April 18 during the regular scheduled Commission meeting. Staff will sent out a confirmation email.

- Culture Initiative
- City Comp Plan
- Future Land Consideration
- Commissioner Onboard/Handbook

ACTION: NONE.

BUSINESS ITEM # 3: 2024 CIP Updates

Commissioners reviewed the project list.

BUSINESS ITEM # 4: Announcements and Future Agenda Items

Laudan Play Equipment

5-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Commission Nominating Committee

LIAISON REPORTS

Arrowhead Development - Awaiting final report

PLANS COMMISSION: Hancock-Cooke - Working on the revised Comp Plan

HARBOR COMMITTEE: Galloway - Channel buoys will be placed by Neenah Nodaway Yacht Club.

MSC Hillstrom / Lawell to adjourn at 5:43p

Recorded for the Commission by Michael T. Kading, CPRP