

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY COMMISSION

MINUTES

Monday, May 15, 2023

1. Call to order

The Watertown Parks, Recreation & Forestry Commission in person on May 15, 2023. The meeting was called to order by Brian Konz. Members present were: Julie Chapman, Brad Clark, Ald. Jonathan Lampe, Brian Konz, Jennifer Clayton, Emily Lessner and Kyle Krueger. Also present were: Kristine Butteris, Jeff Doyle, Andrea Draeger, Jacie Schmidt, and Ali Nicholson.

2. Review and approval of minutes:

Jennifer Clayton motioned to approve the April 17 and April 28, 2023 Parks, Recreation & Forestry Commission meeting minutes as written. Julie Chapman seconded. Motion carried.

3. Review and approval of financial reports

Preliminary budget information through March was given in person.

4. Citizens to be heard

There were none.

5. Business

a. Review and approve Kart Park Leases

Each year leases must be signed and approved in order to utilize the land on which Kart Park operates. Brad Clark motioned to approve the 2023 Kart Park Leases. Kyle Krueger seconded. Motion carried.

b. Review and approve permissions for the Park, Recreation and Forestry Director to negotiate field rental fees

No action was recommended from the Commission.

c. Review and approve memo for purchase of mower

Kyle Krueger motioned to approve the memo to Finance Committee for the purchase of a new mower. Julie Chapman seconded. Motion carried.

6. Director's Report:

a. Project updates:

i. Aquatic Center updates

The drop slide repairs are complete as well as the concrete work. A new toddler slide is currently being installed in the shallow end.

ii. Parks Updates –

- a. Town Square – the grand opening will occur on May 20 with bands, speakers, Kart Park, kids' activities, and a beer garden with food vendors, etc. Stephanie Juhl was introduced as the Programming Event Coordinator for the space.
- b. Riverside Restrooms update – currently awaiting revised plans from the architect.
- c. Riverside Park Wall – Johnathan Lampe provided background information regarding previous Common Council and Finance Committee proceedings. A memo was available which offered options for the project. Approval will take place at the next Finance Committee meeting.

- d. Update fee schedule for 2024 season – To include rental as well as field prep fees, pool and birthday party rentals, etc. in order to be approved at a meeting this summer before tournament agreements are distributed in September.

- iii. **Forestry Updates**

Arbor Day was on April 29 with a tree planting ceremony and social media interactive activities and photos.

- b. **Update on programming:**

- i. **Recreation programming**

Kart Park schedule is complete. Day Camp staff are still being hired. Plans are continuing for summer programs including tree climbing, kickball, soccer camp, etc. Soccer will be ending soon and baseball will start.

- ii. **Senior and enrichment programming**

A Senior Care Fair occurred on May 10 as a collaboration with the Watertown Clergy Roundtable and the Dodge and Jefferson County Aging and Disability Resource Centers in order to provide information and resources to area seniors and their caregivers. The annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony and Members Meeting will occur tomorrow, May 16 in order to recognize volunteers from 2022.

A Bright Light, Neon Night family dance party occurred on May 12. Upcoming tournaments and park events are being arranged.

- iii. **Aquatics update**

Ali is working to increase staffing, which is critically low, especially lifeguards.

- 7. **Adjournment – Next meeting date June 19, 2023**

Brad Clark motioned to adjourn the meeting. Kyle Krueger seconded. Motion carried.