

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY COMMISSION

MINUTES

Monday, February 20, 2023

1. Call to order

The Watertown Parks, Recreation & Forestry Commission in person on February 20, 2023. The meeting was called to order by Brian Konz. Members present were: Emily Lessner, Julie Chapman, Kyle Krueger, Brad Clark, Ald. William Licht, Brian Konz and Jennifer Clayton. Also present were: Matt Meracle, Kristine Butteris, Jeff Doyle, Ali Nicholson, and Andrea Draeger.

2. Review and approval of minutes:

Kyle Krueger motioned to approve the January 16, 2023 Parks, Recreation & Forestry Commission meeting minutes as written. Brad Clark seconded. Motion carried.

Brian Konz motioned to approve the August 16 and October 18, 2022 Senior Center Advisory Board meeting minutes as written. Ald. William Licht seconded. Motion carried.

3. Review and approval of the 2022 year end financial reports

Brian Konz motioned to approve the 2022 year-end financial reports as written. Julie Chapman seconded. Motion carried.

4. Citizens to be heard

Matt Meracle was present to request initial permission for a potential new grandstand on diamond #3 at Brandt-Quirk Park. He wishes to move forward with soliciting funds, partners, etc.

5. Business

a. Discuss and Approve Grandstand on Diamond #3 at Brandt Quirk Park

Matt Meracle previously gave information regarding his support for a new grandstand at diamond 3 at Brandt-Quirk Park. Questions were raised regarding agreements with the school district for maintenance, maintenance for the park crew, potential issues with one field different than the others. Meeting with the Quirk Foundation would also be necessary. Brian Konz motioned to approve continued research for a potential grandstand. Kyle Krueger seconded. Motion carried.

b. Review and approve Tree Memorial Donation - Neurnberg

Kristine presented a tree memorial donation at Riverside Park for Sherry Nuernberg. Brian Konz motioned to remove the tree memorial donation. Ald. William Licht seconded seconded. Motion carried.

c. Review and approve Tree Memorial Donation - Zwieg

Kristine presented a tree memorial donation at Riverside Park for Julie Zwieg. Kristine also mentioned that these will be the last tree or bench memorial donations to be made at Riverside Park for the foreseeable future. Brian Konz motioned to remove the tree memorial donation. Brad Clark seconded seconded. Motion carried.



6. Director's Report:

a. Project updates:

- i. **Aquatic Center updates** – Slide repairs are continuing.
- ii. **Parks Updates** –
 - a. Riverside Restrooms were out for bid in October and received in November. At the finance meeting two weeks ago the bids were denied due to being over budget. Research will continue for additional options, with another finance meeting for potential approval. Options being researched include portable toilets for large events and modular buildings.
 - b. Updated landscape ordinance is being drafted. This body will review and approve in the future.
 - c. VFW Memorial at Riverside Park – A request was received to memorialize the 75th anniversary of the Easter egg hunt with a large stone.
 - d. Washington Park Fence – it has been removed and the crew will touch up the area in the spring.
- iii. **Recreation Updates**
 - a. Programming Event Coordinator position has been reposted with a deadline of March 3, 2023.
- iv. **Senior & Community Center Updates**

None at this time
- v. **Resident/Non-Resident Rates**

Feedback was gathered regarding the current rate structure and potential options with residency requirements for city limits, school district, etc.

b. Update on programming:

- i. **Recreation programming**

Our candlelight hike occurred on February 11 and was successful though cold. Be Active Wisconsin will be offered again, which is a competition to be the most active against other Wisconsin communities. Through a partnership with Stormwater Dept, a rain barrel workshop and stream monitoring training will take place in the spring. Youth baseball and soccer as well as day camp are live for registration. Adult softball registration will begin soon.
- ii. **Senior and enrichment programming**

Last week we held a full week of Valentine's Day events, including Heart Health Talks, a romantic movie, Valentine's-themed Bingo, and a Name that Love Song event. Last week we also held our first in-person puzzle contest since before COVID. Upcoming enrichment programming will include St. Patrick's Day and spring break events, including a family bingo event. The Senior Center soup fundraiser was the most successful it has ever been, raising over \$300. Andrea will begin holding quarterly "activities with Andrea" events to engage with senior members.
- iii. **Aquatics update** –

Ali is working on aquatic center special events, hiring staff, and preparing for an upcoming lifeguard class. Winter swim lessons will end the beginning of March.

7. Adjournment – Next meeting date March 20, 2023

Ald. William Licht motioned to adjourn the meeting. Brian Konz seconded. Motion carried.