

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY COMMISSION

MINUTES

Monday, September 18, 2023

1. Call to order

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

2. Review and approval of minutes:

Brad Clark motioned to approve the August 21, 2023 Parks, Recreation & Forestry Commission meeting minutes pending a few minor changes. Jennifer Clayton seconded. Motion carried.

3. Review and approval of financial reports

Ald. Jonathan Lampe motioned to approve the July financial reports. Brad Clark seconded. Motion carried.

4. Citizens to be heard

There were none.

5. Business

Review and approve the placement of the Fred Merkle Monument at Washington Park

The monument is currently located at the Octagon House property and is proposed to be moved to Washington Park. Fred Merkle was a hall of fame baseball player born in Watertown. Kyle Krueger motioned to approve the placement of the monument at Washington Park. Julie Chapman seconded. Motion carried.

6. Director's Report:

A. Project updates:

i. Parks Updates –

a. **Stone Wall** – Work on the stone wall and bridge is occurring.

b. **Stream Restoration** – restoration is continuing with a section off Labaree St. between the bridges to help water flow. This is a collaboration with the Rock River Coalition and the Stormwater Dept.

c. **All Inclusive Park** – Preliminary plans have been reviewed along with renderings.

d. **Reflection Park** – The pergola, picnic table, and bench are in place. The pathway and sign will be erected soon.

ii. **Senior & Community Center** – The parking lot is mostly complete along with the original entrance and patio. An engineering firm has discussed options regarding the terrace wall include regrading, drainage, blocks, etc.) Furniture and art upgrades are being researched and we are hoping to accept sponsor and donation opportunities.

B. Update on programming:

i. Recreation programming

Soccer and flag football began last week and are running well. Adult softball and



volleyball will be starting soon. Winter programming is being planned.

ii. Town Square Programming

There have been four events in the last three days due to new partnerships for events. Fall and 2024 programming are being planned.

iii. Senior and enrichment programming

Fall programming will include plans for fall foliage week and indoor plant week (fall leaf bingo, photo contest, terrarium workshop). Dance classes, music classes, art classes, and new fitness classes are being planned or are underway. Dartball has started up with the senior center. Upcoming holiday events will include Veteran's Day and a Holiday Party. New senior center initiatives this year include meet and greets, activities with Andrea, sheepshead with Megan, and Humana program in a box series of seminar topics. Our annual rummage sale broke a record with over \$1,900 raised. School break weeks are being planned with enrichment activities such as family bingo and puzzle contests.

iv. Aquatics programming

Fall swim lessons began last week. Aqua fitness classes, winter lessons, and lifeguard classes will be coming up.

7. Adjournment – Next meeting date October 16, 2023

Ald. Jonathan Lampe motioned to adjourn the meeting. Julie Chapman seconded. Motion carried.