

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY COMMISSION

MINUTES

Monday, July 11, 2022

1. Call to order

The Watertown Parks, Recreation & Forestry Commission met virtually and in person on July 11, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Brian Konz. Members present were: Brian Konz, Jennifer Clayton, Brad Clark, Julie Chapman, and Kyle Krueger. Not present were: Emily Lessner and Ald. William Licht. Also present were: Denise Baldwin, Laurie Hoffman, Lori Fort-Hoerig, Jeff Doyle, Kelli DeCoto, Kyle Fowler, and Andrea Draeger.

2. Review and approval of June minutes

Jennifer Clayton motioned to approve the June 6, 2022 Parks, Recreation & Forestry Commission meeting minutes as written. Brad Clark seconded. Motion carried.

Julie Chapman motioned to approve the June 15, 2022 Senior Center Advisory Board meeting minutes as written. Brian Konz seconded. Motion carried.

3. Review and Approval of the End of Year 2021 Financial Reports

Brian Konz motioned to approve end of year 2021 financial reports as printed. Brad Clark seconded. Motion carried.

4. Citizens to be heard

Laurie Hoffman, Lori Fort-Hoerig, and Denise Baldwin were present to voice their support for the small dog park plan and voice concerns regarding the space.

5. Review and take possible action: memorial bench donation

An application for a memorial bench donation was submitted by Steven Werner on June 6, 2022. The bench would be placed at Riverside Park. Brian Konz motioned to approve the memorial bench donation. Jennifer Clayton seconded. Motion carried.

6. Review and take possible action: memorial tree donation

An application for a memorial tree donation was submitted by Carol Roche on May 22, 2022. The bench would be placed at the Interurban Trailhead. Brian Konz motioned to approve the memorial tree donation. Julie Chapman seconded. Motion carried.

7. Director's Report:

a. Update on Park and Recreation Director Position

A candidate has been hired and will be made public soon.

b. Parks status and project updates

Stump removals were stalled for a while as a stump grinder needed to be rented. We are towards the end of tree planting with over 120 trees planted this season. The program for ash tree treatment and replacement is coming to an end.

i. Riverside Park Restroom

This project is still in the planning stages and will be out for bid soon and will not begin until after Riverfest. Ritchie Piltz with Engineering is heading the project.

ii. Small Dog Park Plan

The new Park and Recreation Director will head this project.

c. Update on Programming:

i. Baseball, soccer, softball, watercraft rentals

Intern Kyle Fowler spoke on youth baseball which is wrapping up along with adult softball. August will begin fall youth soccer, youth flag football, various enrichment programs, and additional Kart Park opportunities with family nights and events. Watercraft rentals have slowed.

ii. Senior & Enrichment Programming

GGleagues is continuing with a summer session beginning in July along with a fall session. Discount attraction tickets are being sold. Tree climbing will have another session in August along with kickball and grade school volleyball. Soccer camp will occur mid-July. Day Camp will continue throughout the summer. New sessions of pound, Zumba, kickboxing, and yoga will continue. The upcoming babysitter class is full and stay home alone is being offered again.

National Senior Citizens day is in August and will be planning an event. All previous activities are continuing.

iii. Aquatics Update

We were able to train and hire eight new lifeguards this summer. Swimming lessons have completely filled this summer with the hope to offer fall sessions with newly trained instructors.

d. Review issues and concerns of commissioners

There were none.

8. Adjournment – Next meeting date: August 1, 2022

Brian Konz motioned to adjourn the meeting. Brad Clark seconded. Motion carried.