



Approved

Park Commission

**Regular Meeting
January 11, 2024
Minutes**

Guests:

Absent:

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30pm

1. Commissioner Lydon called the meeting to order.

1a. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1b. Roll Call

Commissioners in attendance were Dan Lydon, Bill Mack, Julie Kochevar, Nathan Stackhouse, Kaylen Olinger and Dan Charpentier. Park Superintendent Doris Zacho and Council Liaison Nicki Battles were in attendance.

2. APPROVE AGENDA: January 11, 2024.

Commissioner Lydon asked if there were any additions to the January 11th agenda. Commissioner Kochevar made a motion to approve the agenda; Commissioner Olinger seconded; all ayes the motion was approved.

3. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA: November 9, 2023.

Commissioner Mack made a motion to approve the consent agenda for November 9, 2023, with a couple of typo corrections. Commissioner Kochevar seconded; all ayes the motion was approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

5. COMMUNICATIONS, REPORTS AND PETITION

5a. City Council Liaison Report

Battles gave an update for the council meeting that was held on January 9th. Appointments were made, and Battles will continue as the park's liaison. The fire chief submitted the annual report and will be at the meeting on January 23rd to discuss it. There is funding available from the state that will be used for fire and police needs, the chief has some ideas on how he would like to spend the

money. He would also like to address the council about paid on call firefighters vs. volunteers. There are only a handful of cities with all volunteer departments. This is a new concept that will need to be investigated.

Council approved the new fee schedule for 2024. A final plat for Lake Martha Overlook will be on the schedule for the meeting on the 23rd. Park and trail fees are included in the final plat. Family Pathways lease agreement was approved for the spaces above city hall. The council approved the hiring of Shane Speltz for the public works department. The council approved using \$28,000 out of the AARP funds for a water study. This study will help the city with future development and growth.

5b. Parks Superintendent Report

The lighting festival and volunteer party were both very successful. Zacho has hired two rink attendants for the winter. The rink should be up and running this weekend. Celebration of the Lakes is the weekend of February 9-11th. The broomball and dodgeball tournament will be at Chuckie Lundquist if the lake location does not work. The movie night will be February 9th at Strom Hall from 6-8pm a reservation is required. The Easter Egg Hunt will be the Saturday prior to Easter. In April the Holistic Expo may be held at Strom. The event hasn't been held since covid.

Mack gave a handout listing possible work for the OWLLS that needs to be done for the 2024 season. He is looking for used windows that could be used at the park.

6. PUBLIC HEARING

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7a. Assign Officers

Commissioner Charpentier nominated Kaylen Olinger for the position of Park Commission Chair. Commissioner Mack seconded; all ayes the motion was approved.

Commissioner Mack nominated Dan Lydon for the position of Park Commission Co-Chair. Commissioner Charpentier seconded; all ayes the motion was approved.

Commissioner Lydon nominated Nate Stackhouse for the position of Park Commission Secretary. Commissioner Mack seconded; all ayes the motion was approved.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8a. 2023 Priority List

1. Ojiketa Concept Plan NE Side of Park-Bike/Walking Path into Park

This will continue to 2024. The DNR is requesting an archaeological study. A study was done when the park was acquired by the city. Zacho forwarded them the study and is waiting to hear back from them to see if the original will work. She discussed the width of the trail, and the impact on the forest with the DNR engineers.

2. Rotary Park Access Path to Lake/Overlook-Funding

This will continue to 2024, Mack had a Rotary meeting this morning and is planning on taking a grant writing seminar class. Someone from Rotary needs this class to apply for available grants on behalf of the club. The access path would be the first thing to tackle with the overlook done after the path completion. Zacho is not familiar with rotary grants and asked Mack about the process. He stated once you apply for the grant, they provide a mentor, and the mentor will help guide you through the process.

3. Girl Scout Projects-Chuckie Lundquist Park-Bug Houses

Lydon provided the commission with a handout from the same girl scout group that did the bat and butterfly houses at the parks. They are working on a badge project. They are making bug houses and looking for some input from the parks commission. Doris suggested Rotary Park, Water Tower Park, and the Ojiketa field area for placement.

4. Bike Loops Maps

5. Reforestation and Channel work Paradise Park

6. Lake Ave Access-Paddle Club

9. NEW BUSINESS

9a. 2024 Priority List

1. Hard Surface for Ice Rink

ZachO would like to have this on the priority list for this year, if the rink area gets asphalt, it can be used year-round. There is interest in a pickleball court during warmer months. She met with a group to discuss fundraising.

The Commission discussed the Disc Golf Course that is being constructed at the CLJSC grounds. They spoke about sponsorship and advertising opportunities. The Wildcat Woods Disc Golf Course is linked with the North Branch Disc Golf Association which is a 501 c3 non-profit.

Commission talked over the need for lighting at Ojiketa, Zacho saved the old streetlights from downtown and would like to utilize them at the camp, they would need to be repainted. **Ojiketa Lighting** will be added to the 2024 Priority List.

A water slide at paradise park beach is too much of a liability to the city. Stackhouse asked about the clean up of the rocks at the beach, it is difficult for children to walk in on the rocks, Zacho said that they can reach out to the DNR for a permit to clean out the beach area and remove the rocks. Stackhouse also mentioned the old boardwalk to the fishing pier, it is missing some boards and needs maintenance. Zacho is looking at a new fishing pier.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Mack made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Charpentier seconded; the meeting unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alisa Bodell
Executive Assistant