

PARKS, FORESTRY, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Monday, August 23, 2021, Minutes

Common Council Chambers, City Hall

75 N Bonson Street, Platteville, WI 53818

The regular meeting of the Platteville Parks, Forestry, and Recreation Committee of the City of Platteville was called to order by Jason Artz at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Jason Artz, Erin Ihm, Cindy Tang, Suraya Strobl, Brian Whisenant, Victoria Hundhausen, Don Francis

Others in Attendance: Adam Ruechel, Debara Browning, Elissa Granger, David Granger, and Luke Peters

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- a. Don Francis asked staff to investigate cars parking on the grass areas surrounding shelters.
- b. Don Francis suggested staff space out soccer games more for future years. In addition to preventing overlap this would help to free up parking behind the high school. He also suggested asking the school district to move the busses from the eastern parking lot.
- c. Don Francis wanted to thank the Chalk & Cheese Committee.
- d. Cindy Tang inquired about a cleaning checklist for Broske Center rentals to be used by both renters and staff when checking on cleaning. Luke Peters stated that a checklist was included in the rental paperwork and posted inside of each hall. Staff currently do inspect the building following each rental, but do not currently use a checklist.
- e. Cindy Tang inquired about online registration for the campground. Luke Peters stated that he was currently reviewing the software Camp Spot. The goal is to start taking reservations after the campground expansion project.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Brian Whisenant to approve the minutes from July 19, 2021, seconded by Suraya Strobl. Motion carried.

STAFF UPDATE:

- a. Broske Center Update
- b. Aquatic Center
- c. Recreation Programs

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Pool Lifejacket Policy** – Luke Peters and Pool Manager, Elissa Granger, presented the pros and cons of allowing life jackets to be used in the Platteville Family Aquatic Center. The current policy is to not allow lifejackets. Both staff members feel that the rule can be tweaked to allow individuals to use properly sized US Coast Guard approved lifejackets. The Committee was supportive of a potential change and staff will work with the Pool Manager to create verbiage to bring back to the Committee prior to next pool season.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Dogs in Municipal Parks** – The question of maintaining the existing ordinance of prohibiting dogs in our parks was brought back to the Committee for discussion. Following some discussion, a motion was made by Cindy Tang to recommend to the Platteville Common Council to change the existing ordinance to allow dogs within parks, with the following regulations:
 - All dogs within the City of Platteville must have a current dog license issued by the City.
 - All dogs within parks must be on a leash no more than 6 feet long and always held by a person.
 - All dog handlers are required to bring bags or scoops and are required to pickup waste when in the parks.
 - No dog may damage park property or interfere with other park users.
 - No dogs are permitted:
 - within the Platteville Family Aquatic Center or Harrison Park.
 - within 20 feet of a playground.
 - within sports fields and facilities including baseball/softball diamonds, soccer fields, tennis courts, pickleball courts, basketball courts, etc.
 - within special events, except where the sponsor has specifically requested to allow dogs.

This motion was seconded by Suraya Strobl. Motion carried.

- b. **CIP 2022-2026 Draft** – Luke Peters presented a list of initiatives from the Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan. Staff highlighted projects that have been completed since the plan was adopted. From the remaining projects staff are suggesting prioritizing the expansion of the western parking lot in Legion Park. Additionally, staff is recommending using

monies from the outfield sign account to add backstops to the Rookie Fields and shade canopies over the bleachers in Woodward Field. No action was taken.

ESTABLISH THE NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will take place on September 20, 2021, at City Hall.

Motion to adjourn by Brian Whisenant, seconded by Suraya Strobl. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Minutes by Luke Peters