

**PEQUOT LAKES PARK COMMISSION
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2016
CITY HALL**

Members Present: Commissioners Adams (Vice-Chair), Bryan, Caouette, Nagel, and Pearson

Members Absent: Chair Ronning and Commissioner Bruch

Also Present: Nancy Malecha, City Administrator/Clerk; Mark Jurchen, Sibley Lake Association; and Dawn Bittner, Zoning Specialist

1. Call Meeting to Order

Vice-Chair Adams called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

2. Consider Agenda

COMMISSIONER NAGEL MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. COMMISSIONER BRYAN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

3. Park Commission Minutes

The discussion regarding the Dog Park should have referred to Community Action and not Donna Wilson. The context will be changed as well as the motion.

COMMISSIONER ADAMS MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2016, PARK COMMISSION MINUTES, AS CORRECTED. COMMISSIONER PEARSON SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

4. Park Bench Donation/Memorial Wall

Nancy Malecha explained the City could not solicit funds and the discussion contained in the September Minutes would be soliciting funds. The City cannot require a donation to pay for a plaque. Ms. Malecha had contacted the Auditor and the City Attorney regarding a donation and was advised the plaque fee should be the direct cost only. The plaque fee needs to be an accurate fee; do not elevate the dollar amount.

When asked, Ms. Malecha stated Community Action does have more leeway and could solicit donations as a 501.c3 organization. People can make donations to the City at any time but the City does not have the same authority as a 501.c3 organization to solicit donations.

Commissioner Adams suggested 2 people from the Park Commission get together, propose a plan for the plaques and present to the Park Commission at the November meeting. Commissioner Adams and Chair Ronning will draft the plan.

Dawn Bittner asked if the Park Commission desired to continue discussion on a Memorial Wall or if the Wall should be removed from future Agendas. Commissioner Adams stated this will be included in the plaque proposal.

5. Skateboard Park

Dawn Bittner read the email from Lisa Sova, Crosby City Clerk, regarding their Skateboard Park. She also advised Chief Klang offered to help with the location.

Nancy Malecha had provided information from the League of Minnesota Cities who have developed an underwriting approach categorizing skateparks into a two-tier system, based on height of the features. There is no additional premium charged for Tier 1 skateparks. Tier 2 parks do have an additional premium and require supervision.

Commissioner Adams had visited a skateboard park in Shorewood. There was no requirement in the posted rules for helmet use.

Commissioner Adams will schedule a meeting to be held at the Library on an evening to get the kids and their parents involved and find out what they want. They need to know their voices are being heard. A Police Department representative should attend also.

6. Bobber Park Water Tower Lights

Chair Ronning had reported to Commissioner Adams that the lights are on.

7. Healthy Community Grant

Dawn Bittner informed the Commissioners she had attended the Crow Wing Energized Healthy Choices Group Meeting October 11 and had thanked them for the grant to improve Sibley Lake and Mayo Parks. She also informed them of the Sibley Lake Association grant and the improvements made this fall.

Mark Jurchen reported the lower steps at Sibley Lake Park have been removed and the bank planted with an upland prairie grass. Low growing shrubs will be planted next year. New benches down by the new pier location would be nice. The upper steps were left in and will need to be improved in the next 3 to 5 years. The water quality testing revealed quite a bit of sediment from the watershed and the park was also a large contributor. The path has been rocked and the Association will work with the City to add rock on the pathway on the

north end. The new pier location was approved by the DNR and will be moved in the spring. The pier needs some repairs and the Lake Association will complete those in the spring.

8. Santa's Bobbin' Into Town

Commission Adams reported Santa's Bobbin' Into Town is December 10 beginning at 3:30. The North Stars will put up lights for businesses for free.

The Park Commission will have a float in the parade and will decorate the float right after the December meeting.

9. Other Business

Dawn Bittner noted Mayor Sjoblad had received information from the National Wildlife Federation on the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. The Park Commission directed her to provide additional information at the November meeting.

Bittner also reported Mike Loven will need to order a new banner for the Bands in the Park in 2017.

Commissioner Nagel shared while participating in the Thriving Community Initiative he heard it is important to make Pequot Lakes a better place, a destination. Ideas he has collected while talking with others include:

- Need a motel;
- Gateways into town, landscaping;
- Ferris wheel or merry-go-round;
- History park;
- Pickle ball court;
- Ice skating rink; and
- Skateboard Park.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, **COMMISSIONER NAGEL MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER CAOUCETTE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Dawn Bittner
Zoning Specialist