

**PEQUOT LAKES PARK COMMISSION
THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2019
CITY HALL**

Members Present: Chair Ronning, Commissioners Kim Churak, Pat Churak, Johnson, Maher and Melby

Members Absent: Commissioner Sjoblad

Also Present: Nancy Malecha, City Administrator; Andy Schwartz, PRASD; Mimi Swanson, Council Liaison; Scott Pederson, Council Member; and Dawn Bittner, Zoning Specialist

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Ronning called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Meeting Procedures

Chair Ronning went over the meeting procedures for the new commission members and reiterated the importance of being addressed by the chair, not talking over others, keep the meetings moving along and to be respectful of others.

3. Consider Agenda

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. COMMISSIONER MELBY SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

4. Park Commission Minutes

COMMISSIONER MAHER MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 13, 2019, PARK COMMISSION MINUTES AS READ. COMMISSIONER JOHNSON SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

5. Trailside Park Improvements

a. Background Information:

Ms. Malecha described the history of the Trailside Park Plan starting with its inception in 2016 and the progression to date. Ms. Malecha also reiterated the City Council's directive was for the Park Commission to concentrate on the splash pad location and the design for the flag display.

- b. **Review Plans:** Ms. Malecha gave a potential design provided by Council Member Pederson to the Commission. Ms. Malecha gave the Commission an overview of the stipulations of the \$250,000 donation received for the Splash Pad and Flag display.

- c. **Infrastructure Considerations:** Ms. Malecha gave a list to consideration
 - a. How much water usage are we able to utilize for the splash pad?
 - b. What are the ongoing maintenance costs with new amenities?
 - c. Who will pay the water fees or is the city going to incur the cost?
 - d. Can we use City treated water or have a separate well drilled for splash pad?
 - e. Removing overhead electric poles, MN Power did state the cost would be \$40,000 to place underground.
 - f. Future bathroom within the park;
 - g. Noise of the flags on a windy day.

Commissioner Maher stated his concerns on the overall cost of the project vs gaining revenue for the City from the amenities. His overall concern is that he feels the splash pad will not bring in new business, residents or income into the City. Council Member Pederson gave some statistics of cities with parks. He stated that these cities are more desirable to live in as well as the properties around the parks are higher in value. Chair Ronning and Council Member Pederson reiterated the City Council approved to move forward with the splash pad and flag display and the directive to the Park Commission is to get the plan together for making these projects happen. Discussion ensued regarding the advantages and disadvantages of these projects as well as the potential plan from Council Member Pederson.

Council Member Pederson will work with Mr. Jason Gorr, Public Works Director, and Mr. Justin Burslie, City Planner, on the plan for Patriot Ave.

Ms. Malecha will give the potential plan to Tim Houle with WSN and he will work with Mr. Jason Gorr and Mr. Andy Schwartz to check for any obstacles with the plan.

- d. **Timeline/Scope of Work:**

- e. **Formation of Committee:**

Chair Ronning suggested there be separate committees for the splash pad and flag displays. These committees can meet, then communicate back to the Park Commission with their findings and suggestions. Commissioner Johnson agreed

to Chair the splash pad committee and Commissioner Maher agreed to Chair the flag display committee.

6. Bands in the Park

Ms. Bittner stated that Jenny received a phone call from Community Action regarding the August 4, 2019 Street Dance and our Bands in the Park for that evening. Commissioner K. Churack stated the street dance will start at 7:00 PM.

Consensus from the Commission was to contact the band for that date and have them play from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

7. Art in the Park

Chair Ronning spoke with Chad Devine, Pequot Lakes High School Art teacher, regarding the layout of Art in the Park for 2019. Commissioner K. Churack stated Community Action voted to donate \$100 to the High School Art Department for the Art in the Park. She also stated that Community Action is holding \$400 that was designated for the Park and they will discuss getting those moneys back to the Park Commission.

8. Next Meeting

Chair Ronning asked if anyone would be absent from the April 11, 2019 meeting. All members in attendance will be at the April 11, 2019 meeting.

9. Other Business

Council Member Swanson asked Ms. Malecha to explain the possibility of getting more funds to the park. Ms. Malecha explained the City Council is considering a gas franchise ordinance with Excel Energy, which when it is adopted there will be a franchise fee on each customer's gas bill. These fees will then go back to the City and the Council has designated the first year revenue to go into the park fund.

Council Member Swanson would like to discuss the Sibley Lake Park outhouse at the next meeting. Chair Ronning stated Ms. Bittner and Sergeant Turcotte will work together and bring options back to the commission regarding cameras at Sibley Lake Park.

Ms. Bittner stated that Molly Zins had emailed her regarding the Outdoor Recreation Survey, which is still in the works but she will send a test survey to the commission to complete as soon as it is available.

Chair Ronning stated he received an email from Denise Simpson from the Pequot Lakes Lions club regarding donating Chokecherry Trees for the dog park. Commissioner Johnson stated that Chokecherry trees are toxic to dogs so that may not be a great idea. Chair Ronning will contact Ms. Simpson.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, **COMISSIONER JOHNSON MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMISSIONER K. CHURACK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer Peterson
Administrative Assistant