

APPROVED MINUTES
WYOMING PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF WYOMING, MINNESOTA
MARCH 7, 2022
7:00PM

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Spangler called the Regular Meeting of the Wyoming Park Advisory Commission for February 7, 2022 to order at 7:00PM

CALL OF ROLL:

On a Call of the Roll the following members of the Wyoming Park Advisory Commission were present: Members Bruce Spangler, Jessica Bergan, Heather Vandenheuvel and Lindsay Hobson

Absent: None

Also Present: Alex Saxe, Assistant City Administrator, Councilmember Luger and Mayor Iverson

Visitors: Bruce Vukelich

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:

Chair Spangler determined a Quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

OPEN FORUM: NONE

CONSENT AGENDA: NONE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consider approving the minutes of the "Regular Meeting" of the Wyoming Park Advisory Commission for February 7, 2022

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MEMBER BERGAN, SECONDED BY MEMBER HOBSON, TO APPROVE THE PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 7, 2022 MEETING, AS SUBMITTED.

Voting Aye: Spangler, Bergan, Vandenheuvel and Hobson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

2. To consider designating the Park Advisory Commission as the City of Wyoming Green Team

Assistant City Administrator Saxe gave some background on the Minnesota GreenStep Program. The City of Wyoming is currently at step 2 and needs to complete a few more requirements to achieve step 3. By obtaining step 3, the city would be recognized at the annual League of Minnesota Cities conference and be awarded a set of recognition blocks that reflects the community's sustained commitment to sustainability efforts. One of the requirements for step 3 is to have a city Green Team, which would be responsible for

leading, coordinating and reporting on sustainability efforts within the city. Staff is recommending that the Park Advisory Commission be designated as the city Green Team.

Member Vandenheuvel asked for clarification on what the responsibilities of the Green Team would be. Mr. Saxe explained that the Green Team would act very similar to the Tree Board. Any sustainability projects would come before this team, create items for social media, and overall monitoring of the city's sustainability initiatives. The Green Team could also come up with new initiatives as well.

THERE WAS A CONSENSUS OF THE COMMISSION TO BE DESIGNATED AS THE CITY OF WYOMING GREEN TEAM.

3. Discussion on Little Free Libraries

Assistant City Administrator Saxe presented information on possible Little Free Libraries in some city parks. Little Free Library is a non-profit organization that was founded in 2012. They are a free community book exchange where anyone can take a book or leave a book. Anyone can start a little library by building their own and registering it or buying a pre-built model. Pre-built libraries cost between \$260-\$400 depending on the model plus \$80 for a post. Staff is looking for direction from the Commission on how to proceed.

There was interest from the Commission to install at least a few in the city. There were concerns raised about why this would be needed with a library right in town. Little Free Libraries are more accessible and are not required to be returned. Library hours can be limited, but Little Free Libraries can be accessed anytime.

Chair Spangler asked if there was any liability to the city in the event that there is inappropriate materials. Mr. Saxe, explained that there would not be any liability to the city, he will confirm that is the case. Chair Spangler asked if these are normally in people's yards. Mr. Saxe explained that individuals can put them in their yard if they choose, but if the city were to do this, it would have to be on city owned property.

The Commission was in favor of trying 1 pilot library potentially over in Lion's or Fireside Park. For next steps it was discussed that this could potentially be an Eagle Scout project.

THERE WAS A CONSENSUS OF THE COMMISSION TO HAVE STAFF PUT TOGETHER INFORMATION ON THIS PROJECT AND SEE IF ANYONE WOULD WANT TO WORK ON THIS FOR AN EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT.

4. Arbor Day 2022

Assistant City Administrator Saxe gave an overview of the Tree City USA program which Wyoming became a member of in 2020. The city has since taken multiple steps to support and promote the city's tree infrastructure and regularly updates the Wyoming Tree Board of progress related to the city's green infrastructure. To maintain Tree City USA status the city must hold an Arbor Day Celebration and issue a proclamation. Staff would like to hold an event educating the public on Emerald Ash Borer disease (EAB) on Saturday April 30th at Goodview Park. Hugo Tree Service will be assisting the city in EAB removal and they would be willing to participate in that event. Staff informed the Commission that next year the city will plan on hosting a larger tree planting event. Trees need to be ordered almost a year in advance and staff will work on that in the coming months to be prepared for next year.

Member Vandenheuvel asked if there was a good amount of space at Goodview for people to congregate. Mr. Saxe said there should be enough space to host this event there. The Commission suggested outreach with the Elementary school and are excited for an event like this.

THERE WAS A CONSENSUS OF THE COMMISSION TO HAVE STAFF PROCEED WITH PLANNING THIS EDUCATIONAL EVENT FOR ARBOR DAY.

5. To consider an application for the vacant Park Advisory Commission seat

Assistant City Administrator Saxe stated that staff received a letter of interest from Mr. Bruce Vukelich to serve on the Park Advisory Commission. Mr. Vukelich was present and spoke about his background and why he was interested in serving on the Commission.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MEMBER SPANGLER, SECONDED BY MEMBER VANDENHEUVEL, TO RECOMMEND THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE BRUCE VUKELICH FOR THE VACANT PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION SEAT.

Voting Aye: Spangler, Bergan, Vandenheuvel and Hobson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

COMMUNICATIONS:

6. Update on 2022 Wyoming City Council Goals and Priorities

Assistant City Administrator Saxe provided a brief update on the goal session the City Council had a few weeks ago. The council was supportive in the goals the Park Advisory Commission set last month. The biggest highlights are to gain more support for Veterans Memorial in Railroad Park, increase walkability, redevelopment of Fireside Park, and find a potential area for a dog park.

Member Vandenheuvel asked about QR codes in the parks and the use of social pinpoint. Mr. Saxe stated that he is not familiar with the QR codes, but would look into that. He stated that social pinpoint is linked on our website, but staff will advertise it to get residents using it more to provide input. Mayor Iverson will also include a brief write up about it in the newsletter.

Assistant City Administrator Saxe provided one more update. He announced there will be a Joint Park Planning Board meeting on Tuesday, March 22nd at 6PM to review a sketch plan for the Sunrise Riverbank Development that will include discussion around a potential new park.

ADJOURN

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MEMBER SPANGLER, SECONDED BY MEMBER BERGAN, TO ADJOURN THE MARCH 7, 2022 MEETING OF THE WYOMING, PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION AT 7:29 PM

Voting Aye: Spangler, Bergan, Vandenheuvel and Hobson

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

NEXT MEETING:
April 4, 2022
7:00PM