

APPROVED MINUTES
WYOMING PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF WYOMING, MINNESOTA
SEPTEMBER 12, 2022
7:00PM

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Spangler called the Regular Meeting of the Wyoming Park Advisory Commission for September 12, 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, Heather Vandenheuvel, Jessica Bergan, Bruce Vukelich, Rick Ahartz, and Claire Luger, Council Liaison

Absent: None

Also Present: Alex Saxe, Assistant City Administrator

Visitors: None

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 August 1, 2022

Member Bergan noted a few minor grammatical errors in the minutes.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MEMBER BERGAN, SECONDED BY MEMBER VUKELICH, TO APPROVE THE PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 1, 2022 MEETING, AS AMENDED.

Voting Aye: Spangler, Vandenheuvel, Bergan, Vukelich, and Ahartz

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Chair Spangler expressed his appreciation to everyone who showed up for the All Boards meeting that took place on August 30, 2022.

NEW BUSINESS:

2. To consider recommending the adoption of the Park and Trail Master Plan to the City Council

Assistant City Administrator Saxe gave a brief overview of some of the discussion at the All Boards meeting regarding the land use map and the Comprehensive Plan. He noted that staff is now recommending adoption of the Park and Trail Master Plan, as presented.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MEMBER BERGAN, SECONDED BY MEMBER AHARTZ, TO RECOMMEND THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPT THE PARK AND TRAIL MASTER PLAN AS PRESENTED.

Voting Aye: Spangler, Vandenheuvel, Bergan, Vukelich, and Ahartz

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

3. Little Free Libraries Discussion

Assistant City Administrator Saxe noted that in March, there was a discussion about Little Free Libraries. He explained that the decision by the Commission was to try a pilot library either in Lions or Fireside Park and to have it potentially be an Eagle Scout project. He stated that staff has created a brief summary of the project and placed it on the Park Advisory Commission page of the City website. He noted that there had not been any interest yet and encouraged the Commission to reach out if they had any connections with the Boy Scouts or Eagle Scouts programs. He stated that if it turns out that it would not be eligible for an Eagle Scout project, the City could take a look at putting in a Little Free Library on their own.

After discussion, the Park Advisory Commission determined that they will check with their various contacts within the Boy Scouts to see if there is interest and if this would meet the criteria for an Eagle Scout Project and also discussed the possibility of reaching out to other volunteer organizations, such as the Lions Club, to see if there was any interest in helping to creating a Little Free Library.

4. Railroad Park Discussion

Assistant City Administrator Saxe gave an update on the Social Pinpoint and community engagement that has taken place for Railroad Park and explained why comments had been turned off. He noted that there was a lot of feedback that residents would like to see a splash pad and a dog park, but neither of those options would fit in at Railroad Park because of its size. He noted that they were able to get a lot of good feedback from residents through various means and staff is now recommending working with the Historical Society and Veteran's groups to put together the final details for the park.

There was discussion about screening the Lakes Gas tank, the actual size of the park, and the feedback from residents that would like to see a splash pad and dog park.

Assistant City Administrator Saxe reviewed the updated construction costs and explained that thought process of moving forward with a phased approach, beginning with the Veteran's Memorial.

Member Ahartz passed along information about a company out of Mendota Heights, Flags of the Fallen, that will donate flag poles and flags to towns where residents have died during war. He stated that he also thinks that Cemstone may be willing to donate some cement.

Assistant City Administrator Saxe noted that staff is continuing to work on fundraising efforts including a possible grant through the State.

After discussion, the Park Advisory Commission came to a consensus that they were in support of taking a phased approach to improvements at Railroad Park and were in support of staff focusing on engagement with the Historical Society and Veteran's groups.

5. Consider Rescheduling the October 3, 2022 Park Advisory Commission Meeting

Assistant City Administrator Saxe explained that both he and City Administrator Linwood have a conflict on October 3, 2022 and they were asking the Commission to consider moving the meeting to October 10, 2022.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MEMBER SPANGLER, SECONDED BY MEMBER VUKELICH, TO RESCHEDULE THE OCTOBER 3, 2022 PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING TO TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2022 AT 6:00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS PRIOR TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING.

Voting Aye: Spangler, Vandenheuvel, Bergan, Vukelich, and Ahartz

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

COMMUNICATIONS:

6. Swenson Park Playground Equipment Update

Assistant City Administrator Saxe explained that the City Council approved ordering the playground equipment for Swenson Park which is expected to be delivered the week of September 26, 2022 so it can be installed prior to winter.

7. Park Steward Updates

Assistant City Administrator Saxe updated the PAC that Banta Park had some pretty major vandalism done that required some insurance claims to be filed by the City. He stated that he believes the police are looking into it and noted that during the Stomp Out Suicide event there was some racially charged messaging that was distributed throughout the City that some of the vandalism seemed to match.

Member Vandenheuvel recommended that information be put into the City newsletter letting residents know that there has been a rise in this kind of behavior and encouraging them to contact the authorities if they see anything.

Assistant City Administrator Saxe explained that he would check with Public Safety Director Bauer to see if that is something he would want the City to do or if he would like to do his own social media post about this situation. He distributed an updated copy of the Park Steward assignments. He noted that one thing the City recently found out is that the Audubon Society actually owns the Hawk Meadows Park trail. He explained that the City will continue to do maintenance along the trail, but anything else will go through the Audubon Society.

Chair Spangler commended staff for doing a great job pulling the ties and stakes out at Hawk Meadows and seeding the area. He stated that it is not the hazard that it once was and looks good. He noted that that there are still two fence posts that need to be fixed or replaced along the trail.

ADJOURN

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MEMBER BERGAN, SECONDED BY MEMBER VUKELICH, TO ADJOURN THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 MEETING OF THE WYOMING, PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION AT 7:46 PM

Voting Aye: Spangler, Vandenheuvel, Bergan, Vukelich, and Ahartz

Voting Nay: None
Abstain: None

NEXT MEETING:
OCTOBER 11, 2022
6:00PM