

COMMUNITY



DEVELOPMENT

222 Lewis Street
River Falls, WI 54022

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AGENDA
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Wednesday, May 16, 2018
Training Room-City Hall 5:15PM
Action may be taken on any of the following items.

5:15 p.m. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Minutes of April 18, 2018 Park and Recreation Advisory Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Non-Agenda Related Topic

NEW BUSINESS

1. **GaGa Pit- Kristen Csiacsek**

OLD BUSINESS

2. **Historic GP Panels-HPC members**
3. **Dog Park Update**
4. **Hoffman Park Shelter Rental Policy**

ADJOURNMENT

Council members may be in attendance for informational purposes only.

No official Council action will be taken.

Post: City Hall Bulletin Board 5/11/18



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MINUTES

PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, April 18th, 2018 at 5:15pm

City Hall Lower Level Training Room

5:15pm CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – Meeting convened at 5:17pm.

Members Present: Susan Reese (chair), Brandon Dobbertin, Patricia LaRue, Jim Nordgren, and Dennis Zielski

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Cindi Danke-*Recreation Manager*

Others Present: Aaron Larson and Martin Wolf-*CVTC students*; Rick Cleary-*Kinni Off Road Cyclists (KORC)*; Ben Fochs- *local citizen*

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

MSC Nordgren/Dobbertin to approve the minutes of the March 21st, 2018 Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Aaron Larson and Martin Wolf, students at Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC), updated the Park Board about their request to put up three bat houses in River Falls parks. They showed an actual bat house to the Park Board members. One may be installed near the kiln, one in the marshy area near the falls, and one near the sewage treatment plant. These CVTC students are working with Nate Croes of the City regarding exact locations. The houses will be about 10-12' off the ground on 4" x 4" posts. The students may add an informative plaque on the post. The DNR rep in Madison will get the exact GPS locations so they can monitor the bats. The CVTC class (and future years of the class) will oversee maintenance in coming years.

MSC Zielski/ Dobbertin that Park Board supports CVTC's bat house project and the locations as discussed. Motion passed 5-0.

Rick Cleary of Kinni Off Road Cyclists spoke about Whitetail Ridge. Last month he spoke about adding a new trail around the edge of the field that the Johnsons rent from the City. Since last month, he also spoke to Mike Stifter and Greg Koehler about getting a water spigot installed. Since it is a public park, the cost will likely be covered by the City.

MSC Zielski/Nordgren to accept the new trail project as presented at the March 21st, 2018 Park Board meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

Both the Glen Park Pavilion bid and the Glen Park Preliminary Plan were approved by City Council on April 10th, with the authorization of professional services for final design for the Glen Park Renovation Project.

NEW BUSINESS

City Forester Nate Croes explained the plan of adding a pollinator garden on city property just off the west parking lot on the south end of the Kinnickinnic Trail. City staff proposes a prairie-like atmosphere with wildflowers, native grasses, and milkweed that would attract bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. It will be about 4,000-5,000 square feet and may also include signage and a walking path through it. They could leave the south end open, mainly for Art on the Kinni to use the space. Besides City staff labor, a UW-RF student has volunteered ten hours of prep work, and elementary students will do some planting. The five neighbors will all be contacted by Nate. He plans to put a few trees in this area with kids or Lion's Club for Arbor Day. He would like to see this project started by Memorial Day. On another note, the City of River Falls just received the Tree City USA award for the 20th time in a row. According to the tree inventory, our city trees are approximately 40% maple trees. The City now plants diverse species and ages of trees to combat this high percentage of a single species in the city. The City is watching for the emerald ash borer because it is in neighboring areas. Some early signs of EAB are woodpecker damage in the upper bark of the tree, and exit holes in mid-May as adult insects emerge from the trees. Trees can be treated chemically after they're infected, but it is very expensive. The entire state of Wisconsin has an ash firewood quarantine which increases the risk of EAB being brought to our area through firewood movement.

Wayfinding was approved by City Council on April 10th. Pictures of signs were included in the Park Board packet. There will be three phases of sign installation.

In the packet, Amy Peterson shared the Community Development Department annual report.

The next Park Board meeting will be Wednesday, May 16th, 2018 at 5:15PM


ADJOURNMENT MSC Ziekski/LaRue to adjourn the meeting at 6:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda Rundle, Recreation Assistant

PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MAY 16TH, 2018
REPORT

FROM: Cindi Danke, Recreation Manager 

RE: Park and Recreation Board May 16th, 2018

1. **Gaga Pit-Sterling Ponds Park**

Kristen Csiacsek resident of the Sterling Ponds addition will be present to ask about a Gaga Pit. Gaga Pit Ball is the current rage with the kids, Once the ball is in play, players hit the ball with an open or closed hand. If the ball hits you below the knee, you are out. If the ball is caught on the fly, the player who hit the ball is out. Gaga Pit Ball games are available in 3 sizes; 15' (12-15 players), 20 (15 to 20 players)' and 26' (20-26 players) and can be used inside or outside. See her letter attached.

2. **Glen Park Pavilion Historic Picture Panels**

Members of the HPC will be at meeting to show some of the pictures they have found of the pavilion panels, they are very excited about this project and should be as River Falls has some great history to show!

3. **Dog Park Update**

City applied for a \$10,000 grant and will be presenting to Community Foundation on Wednesday May 16th morning as one of three finalists.

4. **Hoffman Park Storm Shelter Rental Policy**

More discussion on Hoffman Park Storm Shelter rental as Glen Park gets closer to closing.

Thanks-See you are the Wednesdays meeting.

Dear Park and Recreation Board Members:

My name is Kristen Csiacsek and my family has been a resident of the Sterling Ponds addition in River Falls for 11 months. We have three children ages 8, 5, and 3.

In efforts to maintain a healthy active lifestyle and in hopes of meeting others in our neighborhood we take weekly trips to Sterling Ponds Park. We are writing in hopes to get a Gaga Pit installed thus making our trips even more frequent.

What is Gaga ball and how will it be funded and taken care of?

Gaga ball is fast paced game that involves the physical skills of striking, dodging, and jumping. It can be played with 2-30 players or any age an ability level. This game is the new age four square gaining popularity at parks, schools, and camps. Follow this link to see the game in action. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sO73MVAkhzw>

The installation of the Gaga Pit will cost around \$300. Neighborhood children would like to team together to collect donations for the project. There are plans for lemonade stands, car washes, rock sales, cookie sales and door to door donations. They will also collect donations from friends and family that extend beyond the neighborhood. Once the project is approved we will continue the fundraising process.

More information about the materials needed to build a Gaga Pit please visit this link. <https://www.gagaballpits.com/> Members in the neighbor have offered donate the lumber for the project and help with the installation. Our family will be responsible for the removal of it at the end of the season.

I look forward to answering any more questions at the next park and rec board meeting.

Thank you for your time,

Kristen Csiacsek
Kristen.e.csiacsek@gmail.com
608-797-9971