



222 Lewis Street
River Falls, WI 54022

Phone (715)425-0900
FAX (715)425-0915

AGENDA
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.
City Hall Training Room

5:15 p.m. CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of minutes from September 15, 2021 Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENTS

ACTION ITEMS

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Update on Disc Golf Sterling Ponds MOU - Andrew Reese
2. Report on 2021 Spring/Summer programs – Cindi Danke
3. Upcoming Projects/CIP -Mike Stifter

CALENDAR

The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting will be November 17, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: Any person who has a qualifying disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act that requires the meeting or materials to be in an accessible location or format, may contact City Clerk Amy White at (715) 426-3408 or in person at 222 Lewis Street, for accommodations. Requests for accommodations should be made at least three (3) business days in advance of the meeting. Every effort will be made to arrange accommodations.

*Council members may be in attendance for informational purposes only.
No official Council action will be taken.*



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PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.
City Hall Training Room

- Members Present:** Patricia LaRue (Chair) 5:45 p.m., Sean Downing (Council Rep), Brandon Dobbertin, Brenda Gaulke, Matt Janquart, and Melissa Pedrini.
- Members Absent:** None.
- Staff Present:** Cindi Danke-*Recreation Coordinator*; Mike Stifter-*Public Works Director*; Mike Noreen-*City Forester*; Amy Peterson-*Community Development Director*; Sam Burns-*Planner*; Brenda Rundle-*Recreation Assistant*; Jaden Barnes-*IT Specialist*.
- Others Present:** Mark Nippoldt-*citizen speaker*; Riley Schiefelbein-*citizen speaker*; Lynn Huiskamp-*speaker*; Jonas Selb-*Boy Scout speaker*; Ben Fochs-*citizen*; AZ Snyder-*Pierce County Health Officer*; Brittany Mora-*Pierce County Public Health*; Angie Pilgrim-*St. Croix Valley Foundation*; and *Historic Planning Commission Members* Heidi Heinze, Chris Holtcamp, Lisa Moody, Diane Odeen, and Rebecca Prendergast.

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting convened at 5:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MSC Dobbertin/Downing to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2021 Recreation Advisory Board Meeting as amended. Carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Mark Nippoldt encouraged creating scenic overlooks of the Lake Louise Basin at Glen Park and extending the parking lot near the Glen Park pickleball courts.
2. Riley Schiefelbein lives in the Highview Meadows area and discussed ideas for enhancements to the Highview Meadows Park including soccer goals, shade umbrellas, tennis/pickleball courts, removing thistles in woodchips, planting some trees/shrubs to block the view of new apartments, bathroom, and drinking fountain. They understand it would be difficult to get running water to the park but would like to find out if it's feasible.
3. Amy Peterson let Park Board know that new staff in the Community Development Department are Planner Sam Burns (present), Planner Kendra Ellner, and City Planner Emily Shivley.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Boy Scout Jonas Selb returned to Park Board regarding his plan to build a kiosk for the dog park as his Eagle project. He showed a blueprint and photos of two possible locations. Boy Scouts will fund it. He would like to install it before winter.

MSC Downing/Dobbertin for Boy Scout Jonas Selb to design, build, and install a kiosk at the dog park under the direction of Mike and Irv of Public Works. Carried 6-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Master of Public Health candidate Lynn Huiskamp was invited by Amy Peterson to share her presentation and paper which indicates that the built environment predicts health outcomes of its citizens and says that a more connected community through a well-designed built environment brings benefits to all. She encourages collaboration between public health professionals and city planners.
2. Mike Noreen gave a presentation about the updated Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Approximately 25% of our 8,000 boulevard trees are ash. He anticipates most of them will be infected by EAB and die within in the next 10 years. The City plans to proactively remove about 150 ash annually and replant most with a diverse species mix. Citizens with an ash tree in their boulevard received a post card with three options: remove and replace it, treat it, or wait and see. In the future there will be an online form for citizens, and more aggressive marketing.
3. Heide Heinze of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) updated Park Board about the seven photos on the exterior of the Glen Park Pavilion. The Cascade Mill photo was supposed to be the Glen Park Kitchen photo (on the east side), so HPC would like to pay to switch it out, and they would also like to pay to switch some nameplates to update the photo credits. Park Board is fine with the changes. Heidi also said HPC would like to add some photos to the interior of the new Pavilion, and they will bring their ideas to a future Park Board meeting. Interior photos may also help with the noise level. HPC is wondering what will happen to the old brown wooden mill sign from the 1970's near the Swinging Bridge when it is removed; it is in bad shape.
4. Amy Peterson updated Park Board about the Sterling Ponds Park Disc Golf Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the upcoming Comprehensive Plan update/Bike Ped Plan/Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan process. The Disc Golf MOU went through plan commission and will move on to City Council. Plan Commission and Council had a joint workshop to interview two consulting firms for the planning processes and we're undergoing contraction negotiations now. The Park and Recreation Advisory Board will be the committee for the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, and a bike/pedestrian committee will be formed; anyone interested should email Amy Peterson. The project is expected to get going this year.
5. Mike Stifter updated Park Board about upcoming projects and the CIP. The Glen Park Pool season has wrapped up and the splash pad will be open through this weekend. Brandon's Park and Wells Park are high on the list for next year, and the pickleball court will be resurfaced.

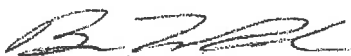
CALENDAR

The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting will be October 20, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

MSC Gaulke/Dobbertin to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda Rundle
Recreation Assistant

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Toland and City Council

FROM: Mike Stifter, Public Works Director

DATE: October 12, 2021

TITLE: Sterling Hill Disc Golf Course

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Provide approval, through resolution, to further work with the Disc Golf Course community group (RFDGC) to develop a disc golf course on Sterling Hill, adjacent to the Sterling Ponds residential development and allow this community group to make further improvements to the property in fall/winter 2021/2022.

BACKGROUND

A disc golf course community group, headed by Andrew Reese, approached City staff in summer 2019 as to the possibilities for an 18-hole disc golf course on City property. After reviewing different parcels, it was decided that the Sterling Hill, of approximately 12 acres, served as the best location, largely because of its unlikelihood for future development due to steep slopes. Staff considered this opportunity similar to the mountain bike course developed by the Kinni Off Road Cyclists on the hills on the west side of the STH 35.

Andrew Reese and his team of volunteers consulted with the Park and Recreation Advisory Board on several occasions since and at the September 16, 2020, meeting, Mr. Reese received an endorsement by the Board for the project (see proposed Disc Golf Course concept plan).

During the past 24 months, the group has worked on site preparation by removing debris and brush, which has largely included buckthorn, pending DNR approval before more formal work could commence.



Amy Peterson, Community Development Director, received formal approval from the DNR in July 2021 that Disc Golf was a permissible activity, clearing the way now for more formal development of the site.

DISCUSSION

Next steps from the Disc Golf group will include efforts to raise the funding for the initial build. Cost of initial install is estimated at \$9,000. The RFDGC will use volunteers to install tee pads, baskets, and trails, which should lead to a "soft opening" in fall of 2022. City personnel will be consulted as necessary and will remain involved with the oversight of these efforts.

Once the course is open to the public, the City will provide garbage and recycle containers as well as a portable restroom. The Public Works Department is able to accommodate this. The RFDGC requests that parking be allowed along 'Old Jersey Road' and that provisions are made with signage and site prep to accommodate it. It's recommended that access only be granted from Huppert Street versus and/or through Sterling Ponds. The long-term needs of this course, including parking, will be assessed as part of the upcoming Outdoor Recreation Planning process.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The project was included and approved in the 2020/21 CIP; however, no City funding was earmarked, and it is to be funded by grants or donations. The Disc Golf group anticipates funding much of the project on its own and through 'sweat equity' as noted above, which includes clearing the play areas, baskets, signage and tee pads. Anticipated financial impacts at this time are limited to parking improvements or other site amenities such as porta potties, picnic tables, and trash/recycling containers. Any additional City contributions would occur through the regular budgeting process(es).

CONCLUSION

Staff recommends that Council provide approval for the property to be used as a disc golf course as long as no other purpose arrives that would serve a greater need for the community. This course will be in addition to the existing course at Hoffman Park that the City will still maintain.

This grassroots group of volunteers intends to potentially organize into a more formal group to sustain the care and maintenance of this course in the future. At that time, City staff will then work with this group to develop a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the long-term use and maintenance of this space. Such a memorandum would come back before Council for review; this is similar to how the bike trail program and MOU with Kinni Off-Road Cyclists at Whitetail began.



RESOLUTION NO.

RESOLUTION APPROVING USE OF STERLING HILL PROPERTY FOR A DISC GOLF COURSE

WHEREAS, the City owns approximately 12 acres referred to as Sterling Hill; and

WHEREAS, there is no anticipated City use for this land at this time; and

WHEREAS, this property is not likely to be developed in the future due to the steep terrain; and

WHEREAS, a community disc golf course group has done some initial concept planning, site preparation, and now hopes to proceed with full development of a disc golf course.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of River Falls approves the use of this property for a disc golf course and authorizes City staff to coordinate and work community volunteers to finalize completion of this course.

Dated this 12th day of October 2021.

Dan Toland, Mayor

ATTEST:

Amy White, City Clerk

Sterling Hill Disc Golf Course Proposal 18 Hole Design

Phase 1/Establish Walking Paths(1-3 months/Summer 2020)(COMPLETE)

- Map and mark preliminary course design.
- Establish walking paths from T-Pad to Basket locations and between holes.
- Clear underbrush 5'-10' wide on all paths.
- Cut and clear buckthorn and saplings on all paths.
- Remove downed/dead trees crossing all paths.
- Assess preliminary design, and adjust paths when necessary.

-(Note)Buckthorn removal would be an ongoing process that would last the lifetime of the course(1-5 years for initial removal).

Cost \$100-\$300

Man Hours 30-40

Phase 2/Clearing fairways/Initial Build(12-18 months/Fall 2020-Spring 2022)

- Widen paths out to fairway perimeters between T-Pad and Basket locations to create fairways.
- Cut, poison, and remove buckthorn and saplings on all fairways.
- Remove downed/dead trees on all fairways.
- Plant grass and allow to grow for a full season.
- Remove larger trees deemed to be an obstruction for fair play within the fairways.
- Install Baskets.
- Install temporary T-Pad markers.

-(Note)Fairway buckthorn removal would be a 2 step process.

1. Initial cut and clear(spring/summer/fall).
2. Cut and poison(late fall).

Cost \$4,500-\$7,200

Man Hours 144-192

Phase 3/T-Pad and Signage Install(6-12 months/Spring2023)

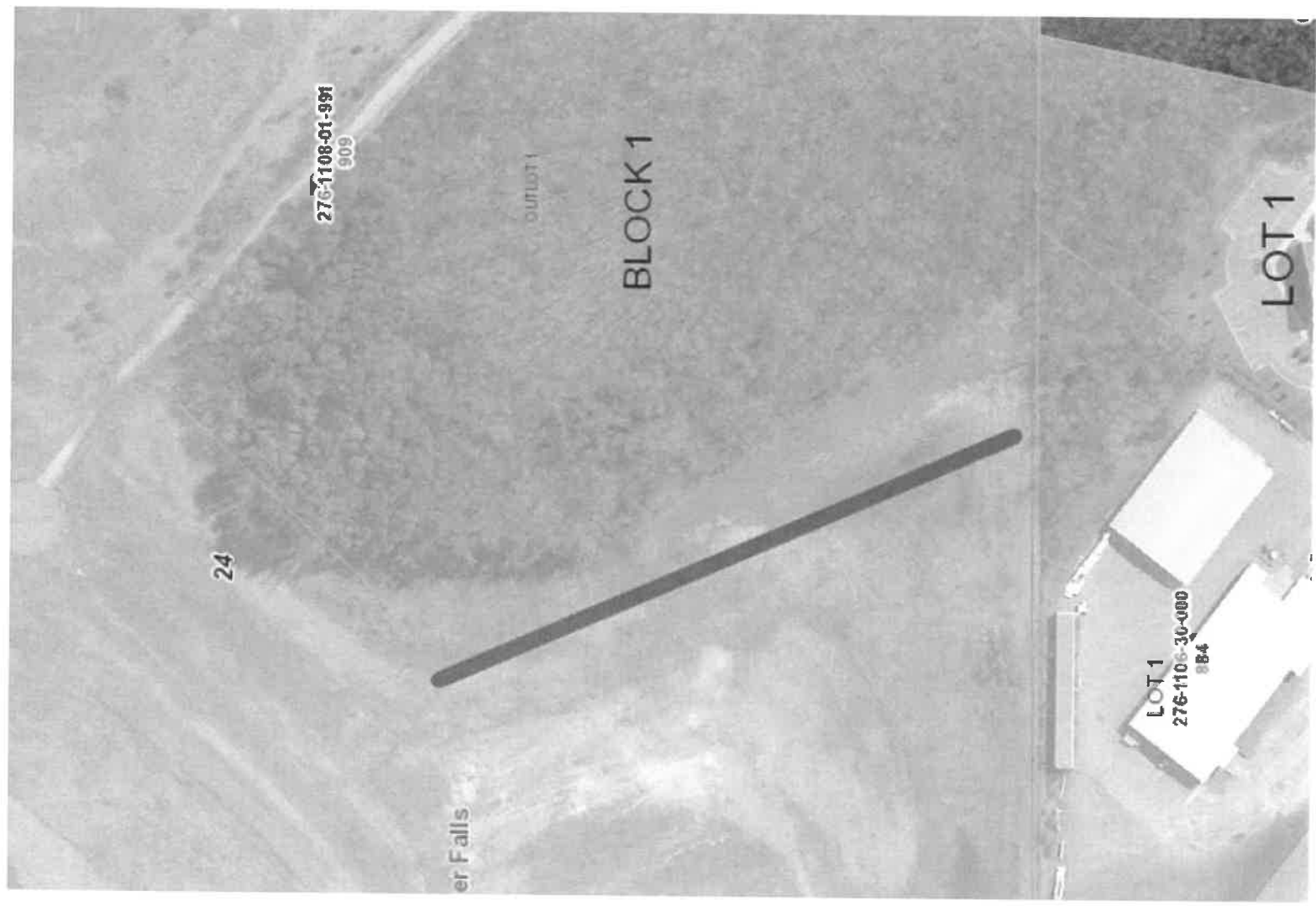
- Install 9 T-Pads.
- Install T-Pad and navigation signage.

Cost \$1,800-\$3,600

Man Hours 72-100

Total Time 2-3 years

Total Cost \$6,400-\$11,100



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OUTLOT 1

BLOCK 1

LOT 1

LOT 1
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