

## Community Services Department

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### PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES SEPTEMBER 20, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. CITY HALL TRAINING ROOM

#### CALL TO ORDER

Meeting convened at 5:30 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:** Patricia LaRue (chair), Scott Morrissette (Council Rep), Brandon Dobbertin, Brenda Gaulke, and Melissa Pedrini.

**Members Absent:** Matt Janquart and Natasha Schaefer.

**Staff Present:** Brenda Rundle-Recreation Assistant, Erica Ellefson-Public Works Manager, and Amy White-Community Services Director/City Clerk.

**Others Present:** Sean Downing and Matt Uetz.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MSC Gaulke/Morrissette to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2023 Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting. Carried 5-0.**

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS – Non-Agenda Items

Matt Uetz would like to know why DeSanctis Park is not being mowed.

#### REPORT ITEMS

1. City Forester Mike Noreen shared a slideshow with updates about the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) plan. The beetles will kill all ash trees within about five to seven years. The trees can only be saved if they have greater than 60% canopy. The City has 1,451 public ash trees (plus private ones as well). 57% of ash trees in River Falls are considered to be infected with EAB. In 2023, it was recommended that 730 should be removed and 721 could be retained and treated. 360 ash trees were treated in 2023 on the east side of the river. The City plans to treat the remaining 350 trees on the west side in 2024. Trees will be re-evaluated in 2025. It costs about \$1,000 to remove a tree and an average of \$75 to treat a tree. A 2023 DNR grant of \$23,400 helped evaluate, purchase chemicals, and hire summer labor. Mike will apply for the grant again for 2024. The City buys \$50 trees each spring and keeps them in a gravel bed.

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. Amy White included a memo about park shelter reservations. The online reservation system is going well. The fees seem to be in line with surrounding communities. The fee schedule will be forwarded to City Council. One member questioned if the Glen Park Pavilion should cost more for non-residents. Staff recommends keeping Glover Station Schoolhouse closed during the winter, and park board agreed.

#### STAFF REPORTS

3. Public Works report - Manager Erica Ellefson said the new playground equipment was installed at Collins, Wells, DeSanctis, and Sterling Ponds Parks. The fall protection mulch

went in today. Wells Park also received a large concrete slab for a picnic shelter that holds four picnic tables. A grill will be added to Wells Park as well. DeSanctis Park received a trail overlay. The garbage and recycling cans and portable toilet were moved a bit west to a new concrete slab, and a composite decking surround will be added. People can use garbage cans at each end of the park as well; there are signs indicating to "Pack In, Pack Out." Keeping garbage trucks off the new trails will prolong the investment. The vinyl lettering has arrived to put up a sign at Glover Station schoolhouse. The pool closed August 27 and the splash pad closed September 17. The splash pad motor needs to be replaced. Since the departure of the Assistant City Administrator, the Public Works Manager now reports to the Utility Director. Kudos from a resident was shared.

4. Recreation report - spring/summer recreation went well for the season, camping is still going well, and she included a history of Glen Park Pool attendance over the years.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MSC Dobbertin/Pedrini to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m.**

#### **CALENDAR**

The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting will be October 18, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall Training Room.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda Rundle  
Customer Service Representative