

MINUTES

PARKS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY COMMISSION

January 23, 2018, 5:30 PM, Municipal Building Board Room

PRESENT: Pakkala, Shay, Goltz, Smith, Webber

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Dudley, Gorman, Hagen – Village of Mount Horeb

Pakkala called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Consider minutes of the November 28, 2017 meeting.

Webber moved, Shay seconded to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2017 meeting. Motion carried.

Park and Urban Forestry Director's Report

Gorman reviewed his written report. Hagen updated the Commission on the status of the potential JT Klein senior housing project next to Liberty Park.

Discuss and consider shelter fees for daycare groups.

Dudley reported that the Little Vikings daycare had approached the Rec. Dept. about reserving the Sunrise Park shelter this summer on weekdays, June 11-August 17 from 6:00am to 6:00 pm. The current resident rental rate for reserving the shelter is \$60/day. Dudley asked the Commission if the Village should allow one group to tie up the shelter for that many days in the summer and she also asked what an appropriate rental rate would be. Dudley also handed out information on what some other area communities do. Shay moved to table the discussion until the February meeting so the Commission could gather more information on the topic. Smith seconded. Motion carried.

Discuss and consider updated Recreation Department mission statement.

Dudley explained that the current mission statement was established well before she started working here and she would like to update it to more closely reflect the Rec. Department's goals. The proposed mission statement reads: "It is the mission of the Mount Horeb Recreation Department to provide a wide variety of recreational and leisure opportunities to enhance the quality of life for all Mount Horeb residents while promoting positive physical, social and emotional experiences."

Webber moved, Goltz seconded to approve the change. Motion carried.

Recreation Director's Report

Dudley stated that the summer/fall guide will go out on March 20 and online on March 19. She reviewed her new programs and said they plan to do three free movie nights again this year. She reported that most of the aquatic center staff will be returning this year and she plans to adjust the schedule for swimming lessons this summer due to the new school calendar and public swim times. She is also working with Gym Dandy, a company whose software is used to reserve park shelters and athletic fields.

PUBLIC HEARING: To receive input on request to use a portion of Village parkland – Himsel Park – for a community garden area.

Hagen summarized a list of 18 emails that Village staff had received regarding the proposed community garden at Himsel Park. Of those, 15 were in support of the project, 2 were opposed and 1 was not against the project but thought there was a better place than Himsel Park for the location. During the public hearing, the following people spoke in favor of the project: Sarah Castello, Sandy Strommen, Lynn Messinger and Tim White. Frank Fetter and Carolyn Kelley also spoke and were in favor of the concept of the garden but were concerned about additional traffic, speeding, vehicles turning around in their driveway and potential insect pests coming from the garden. The public hearing closed at 6:35 pm.

Consider request from Mount Horeb Area Community Garden (MHACG) to use a portion of Village parkland.

The Commission agreed that they like the community garden idea but need to set some criteria. Goltz moved, Shay seconded to recommend approval of the community garden at Himsel Park to the Village Board with the following conditions:

- Limit the garden to 20 plots for the first year
- The garden hours should be the same as the park hours
- There will be no community garden without the existence of the Mount Horeb Area Community Garden (MHACG) Committee
- The MHACG will need to present a year- end report to the Commission in the fall of 2018
- The MHACG will need re-approval after the first season

Motion carried.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 5:30pm.

Adjourn

Pakkala moved, Smith seconded to adjourn at 7:07 pm.

Minutes prepared by Jeff Gorman, Parks and Forestry Director.