

MINUTES

PARKS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY COMMISSION

March 23, 2021, 5:30 PM, Virtual Meeting Due to COVID-19

PRESENT: Fendrick, Monroe, Smith, Jackson, Webber

ABSENT: None

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

Fendrick called the virtual meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Consider minutes of the February 23, 2021 meeting.

Webber moved, Monroe seconded to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

Consider request by Gorman & Company, LLC to waive park fees for the Landsby Ridge project

Ted Matkom from Gorman & Co presented the request to waive park fees stating that they have significant budget overages due to utility relocation and increased costs of materials and lumber. He asked for a waiver on the 46 affordable units totaling \$71,852.

Fendrick said the Village has been trying to get more affordable housing and this is an important project to help reach that goal. He would support some fees being waived. Monroe has experienced the pressure on the existing parks and the demand for more park facilities and athletic fields. He would support no more than 50% of the fees being waived. Webber said the project will result in more use of Grundahl Park but would support some fees being waived. Jeff Gorman pointed out that the Village just updated its Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan which recommended increasing the park impact fees by more than \$1100/unit due to the increased need for more park land. Gorman stated that those fees are needed to help meet the increased demand. Owen stated that the Mount Horeb Utilities have agreed not to charge labor on their part of the utility construction.

Webber moved, Smith seconded to waive 75% of the park fees on all 51 units of the Landsby Ridge project. Motion carried 4-1 with Monroe voting against.

Discuss and consider 2021-2023 Mount Horeb Gators agreement

Dudley shared the agreement that was proposed in 2020 but was never adopted due to COVID and the Gators not having a season in 2020. The proposed agreement has a fee of \$40/swimmer for the three years of the contract. Sara Larson from the Mt Horeb Gators was present and proposed to have the Gators pay a fee of \$2500 for the 2021 season and then renegotiate the contract for 2022 and beyond. She stated that their largest fund raiser is the concession sales at the swim meets and they are unlikely to raise as much money with COVID guidelines. She also in unsure of how many swimmers they will have this summer.

Webber and Fendrick thought a \$3000 flat fee would be a good compromise. Monroe and Smith agreed.

Webber moved, Jackson seconded to charge the Gators \$3000 for pool use in 2021 and renegotiate in 2022. Motion carried.

Update on 2021 summer field usage

Dudley and Monroe met with the school district and the youth baseball, softball and soccer organizations. The meeting was productive and the soccer and youth baseball programs will be in pretty good shape regarding field space. The softball organization is relying heavily on the use of the fields by the middle school and their availability has not yet been confirmed.

Fendrick stated that he has talked to Nic Owen and asked for a discussion at the April Village Board meeting on purchasing additional park land. Monroe stated that Mount Horeb is falling behind other communities in regards to playing fields and we are unable to host large tournaments. He said additional athletic fields should be a priority for our youth although there is a high price for land.

Recreation Director's Report

Dudley reviewed her report.

Public Services Director's Report

Gorman reviewed his report. Monroe asked for more information on EAB management and Gorman will supply that information.

Consider items for future agendas

Youth Baseball Association request to build batting cages at Sunrise Park
A report back on the discussion on purchasing additional park land
Dudley is looking to hire a year around office assistant
Fendrick thanked Jessica Jackson for her service on the Commission.

Set next meeting date and time

The next meeting was set for April 27, 2021 at 5:30 pm.

Adjourn

Webber moved, Monroe seconded to adjourn at 6:38 pm.

Minutes prepared by Jeff Gorman, Public Services Director