

**WATERTOWN PARK AND  
RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

February 10, 2011

6:00 PM

Watertown City Hall, Council Chambers  
309 Lewis Avenue South

**Members Present:** Chair Dan Ross, Vice Chair, Adam Pawelk, Commissioners, Danette Painschab, Michael Madsen, Joel Skoog, and Council Liaison Michael Walters

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Senior Planner, Crystal Foust

**Others Present:** Leah Weyandt, MN DNR, John Motzko

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by Chair Danette Painschab.

**2. ADOPT THE AGENDA**

**3. APPOINT CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2011**

**WALTERS MOVED, SECONDED BY PAINSCHAB TO APPOINT DAN ROSS AS CHAIR AND ADAM PAWELK AS VICE CHAIR FOR 2011.**

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**PAWELK MOVED, SECONDED BY PAINSCHAB TO APPROVE THE PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 18, 2010. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. RECOGNITION OF INTERESTED CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA**

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Fishing Pier in Riverpointe Park**

Staff was approached by a family requesting permission to donate a fishing pier to be located on the pond in Riverpointe Park. Riverpointe Park is a city park that was deeded to the City in part to satisfy the city's park dedication requirements for the Riverpointe subdivision. Riverpointe Pond is part of the Fishing in the Neighborhood since 2008. Fishing in the Neighborhood (FiN) is Minnesota DNR's urban fishing program. FiN provides shorefishing opportunities. Neighborhood fishing ponds are intended for beginner anglers to introduce them to sport fishing, but can be used by anyone wanting to wet a line. As part of the program, the pond has been stock annually with fish since 2008 so people are able to catch fish when fishing.

The family has requested some City contributions including permission to install pier, extension of path to the fishing pier – either pavement or another material that is ADA accessible, and staff assistance with installation of pier.

The Park Commission would like to look at the location of the fishing pier in the spring after the snow has melted and are able to access the park. The Park Commission also discussed the fluctuation in water levels of the pond and also constructing the pier to be able to accommodate flooding.

**PAINSCHAB MOVED, SECONDED BY PAWELK TO ACCEPT THE DONATION OF A FISHING PIER FOR RIVERPOINTE PARK. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.**

**WALTERS MOVED, SECONDED BY PAINSCHAB RECOMMEND APPROVING A PLAQUE TO BE PLACED ON THE FISHING PIER STATING GARY DANIELSON MEMORIAL FISHING PIER. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.**

Chair Ross requested staff to look into the available funds for Riverpointe Park.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. SHIP grant: Trail signage project**

For the past several months, staff has been working with the subcommittee created from the Park Commission made up of Watertown Area Historical Society members Earline King and Teresa Nelson and Park Commissioner Adam Pawelk along with Planner Foust. Originally the Park Commission charged the subcommittee to determine trail naming signage for 3 trail segments: trails in Rick Johnson Park, Rapid Waters Park, and Old Mill Park, naming the trail after either a person or family with a description of that person or family on the sign. After meeting with the subcommittee and discussing the scope at length, the project has evolved in such a way that lends itself to two trail sign projects: historical signs and wayfinding signs. With so much history in Watertown, it became difficult to determine a person or even a family to select for the trail name, so the subcommittee discussed having trail signs highlighting Watertown's history in general. Wayfinding signs could be 12x18 aluminum, 1 color, 1 side for \$40; Historical sign either 18x24 for approximately \$625 or 36x36 for approximately \$750. Attached is a spec of the single leg pedestal sign. The subcommittee recommended placing 15 wayfinding signs, placed at key trail intersections on the 11 main trail segments and 4 historical signs, two in Rick Johnson Park, one in Rapid Waters Park, and one in Old Mill Park. The subcommittee recommends moving forward with Watertown history in general for the signs rather than individual persons or family. There is a lot of history and to identify certain components for a limited amount of sign space would be difficult. The subcommittee discussed alternatives for a naming series. Possible suggestions included names of trees. The subcommittee contemplated whether or not it was useful to the trail user to have the actual trail be named and whether or not this is the right time to name the trails in the community. Currently most of the trails are within a particular subdivision, in a park (that is already named), or along a road due to the nature of how they were funded and constructed. The subcommittee discussed the timing of the names and suggested it may be more appropriate to determine a naming system after the trails become more established and connected. Staff and the subcommittee are seeking direction from the Park Commission on the trail sign project(s) as it relates to design and copy for each sign and whether at this time it is appropriate to name the trails.

Commissioner Pawelk highlighted some of the concepts and ideas the subcommittee discussed. The subcommittee is seeking direction from the Park Commission on whether or not the commission thinks the wayfinding and historical signs should be separate. Commissioner Skoog mentioned that in addition to the 15 wayfinding sign proposed, he would recommend 2 on either ends of the Luce Line Trail as people enter into Watertown. The Park Commission was in consensus that 4 history signs are adequate.

The Park Commission directed the subcommittee to move forward with the historical trail signage project and bring the text back to the Park Commission as needed for review. The Park Commission will decide next meeting on the design of the wayfinding signs.

No motion was taken.

### **B. Adopt a Park Program**

Staff presented the Adopt a Park Program which was originally established in 2008. Shortly after the program started, Kindred Spirit, a home school coop adopted Highland Park and Friends of Riverpointe Park had adopted Riverpointe Park in February 2009. Staff would like to re-energize this program and develop a strategy to get more parks adopted. There is a lot of potential for this Program to increase in growth and adoption. There are many local groups and organization that may not know about the Program and it would be simple to contact them about the Program. The adoption is a minimum of 1 year and doesn't cost the group any money. The City provides the garbage bags, safety vests, and paint. The group would have to spend some time once a month to work on the park.

The Park Commission directed staff to write letters to the local groups and organizations and at the Park Commission meeting in March, the members would divide up the list and make personal connections with the groups either my phone or going to the group's meeting. Staff will prepare talking points for the Park Commission to help making those connections.

## **7. STAFF REPORT**

### **A. Park Commission vacancy and reappointments**

The City Council will be conducting interviews with the candidates that have expressed interest in the two vacancies on the Park Commission. The City has received two applications and an additional two have expressed interest in the positions. Park Commission Chair Ross expressed interest in having the Park Commission involved in the interview process as in years past. Staff responded that an email can be sent out inviting Commissioners to the next meeting when the City Council considers the Park Commission appointments.

### **B. SHIP grant update**

Staff presented an update on the Safe Routes to School initiative at the City Council meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Staff presented the executive summary to the Park Commission and updated the Commission on the multi-method assessment approach the working group has taken thus far in the initiative. The working group consists of members of city staff and school staff from both the public school and Christ Community Lutheran. Staff will continue to update the Commission as it progresses.

### **C. Splatter update**

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Staff reported Splatter has a new Director, Ricki Hanson. The upcoming events for the next couple of months were presented to the City Council on February 8<sup>th</sup>. The next event is an Ice Skating Party which will be on February 11<sup>th</sup> from 6-9:30pm. The other upcoming event is a fashion show in either March or April.

**8. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

**9. ADJOURN**

**PAINSCHAB MOVED, SECONDED BY SKOOG TO ADJOURN THE FEBRUARY 10, 2011  
WATERTOWN PARK AND RECREATION MEETING AT 7:16 PM.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dan Ross  
2011 Park Commission Chair

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Crystal Foust  
Senior Planner