

**WATERTOWN PARK AND  
RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

December 11, 2008  
6:00 PM  
Watertown City Hall, Council Chambers  
309 Lewis Avenue South

**Members Present:** Chair Danette Painschab; Vice Chair, Joel Skoog; Commissioners, Michelle Brassington, Eric Billiet, Daniel Ross, Andrew Hatling; Council Liaison, KJ McDonald

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** City Administrator, David Mandt; Senior Planner, Crystal Foust

**Others Present:** Kody Amburn, Jodi Martinez, Randy Masica

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM by Chair Danette Painschab.

**2. ADOPT AGENDA**

***ROSS MOVED, SECONDED BY BRASSINGTON TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.***

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***ROSS MOVED, SECONDED BY HATLING TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 13, 2008 AS WRITTEN. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.***

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

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Naming of Park along Mill Avenue**

Staff presented a list of significant people and a brief bio for each. Watertown was called Rapid City and Union City before being named Watertown in 1858. Mayor McDonald stated that the Indians named the City Rapid Waters.

Chair Painschab stated she has a hard time naming the park after an individual because of the controversy. She is in favor of the name Founder's Trails for the trail system in the park.

Mayor McDonald stated that he believes is can get some donations from community organizations to build a historical market with brick identifying the 10 founders and the Indians who settled in the area along with the overall history of the Watertown.

Commissioner Ross stated that the name(s) on the plaque doesn't necessarily have to coordinate with the park name chosen.

There was some discussion about which Indian tribe settled in Watertown. The Commissioners discussed possibly naming the park the Indian version of Rapid Waters.

Park Commission made a consensus to table this item until more information is gathered.

### **B. Community Soccer Fields**

Resident Jennifer Menke has approached the Park Commission at the last meeting to discuss the potential for new soccer fields in the City. She has expressed concern that with the increasing popularity of the sport, the City does not have an adequate supply of soccer fields that can be used for both practice and competition.

The Park Commission directed staff to design concept plans for Kings Meadows Park and the future community park. The community park has been donated and seems like a more viable option given the accessibility, parking and the opportunity the City would have to partner with the school to make the two existing fields at the elementary school full-size (55 x 100 yards) as well as create two new full-size fields potentially.

Kings Meadows Park is 100% in the floodplain. Soccer fields are allowed a floodplain, but filling and grading needs to be evaluated in more detail. There shall be no filling in the floodplain. An estimate in 2007 from the City Engineer for a grading plan *only* was \$9,000. Because the park is in the floodplain and potentially has some wetlands, a plan needs to be prepared. The cost of completing the grading is above and beyond \$9,000. Off-street parking and access are other planning issues that need to be resolved before the park can be used other than for open space which is what it is now.

Commissioner Billiet stated that he is opposed to Kings Meadows and would like to focus on improving the community park given the timeline the City has committed to put in infrastructure and utilities within 5 years. Commissioner Ross also stated that having more fields in one location in the community park is ideal, which is one of the suggestions made by Ms. Menke at the last meeting.

Chair Painschab stated that at some point in the future the City needs to look at providing soccer fields.

***ROSS MOVED, SECONDED BY BILLIET TO RECOMMEND SOCCER FIELDS IN THE COMMUNITY PARK. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.***

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Bike Track Presentation**

Ms. Jodi Martinez and Kody Amburn presented the idea of a BMX track south of the City compost site. Mr. Amburn stated that he and his friends like to ride bike, but have been told not to ride at the skate park and there is not a lot of places to go. He is interested in putting things together to get the track up and running. The location is very visible with easy access provided by the new trail. He has talked to the kids and they have said they are interested in helping out. Ms. Martinez stated that Mr. Amburn did make a model.

Chair Painschab asked if the site was big enough. Some trees would have to be spaded out. Commissioner Billiet asked if he proposed a rack or a park with ramps. Mr. Amburn stated he would like a recreational track for fun.

Major McDonald suggested that if we are going to do it we should build it large enough as an official track for competitions to bring people to the community.

Adequate lighting was discussed.

Commissioner Hatling thanked Mr. Amburn and Ms. Martinez for presented their idea. He sees this as a serious problem that there is nothing to do for youth. A number of suggestions were made during the survey in the lunchroom and a BMX track was not the number one suggestions but it was one of the suggestions. This idea doesn't look like it is a lot of money, but suggested organizing a Youth Commission where these types of ideas could be presented.

Park Commission came to a consensus to move forward with a Youth Commission, providing more opportunities for young people to be heard.

Commissioner Billiet also supports the Youth Commission which develops a proactive procedure for hearing and acting on ideas. It seems that the Park Commission has been very reactionary.

Ms. Martinez commented that the idea they are proposed is not a structured sport like soccer is which was previously discussed. A youth member has proposed an idea and is willing to initiate the project.

Commissioner Hatling suggested starting with a Youth Commission which could be initiated by this project. He stated he doesn't want to be reacting to different groups and would like more participation so that the track gets used. There needs to be a process for recreational opportunities so that it is a positive experience. Ms. Martinez expressed concern that not all youth people are "group goers".

Commissioner Billiet stated that youth people can come and voice their opinion. Where there is an incentive, food, they will participate. The skills to be learned like civic engagement is what is key.

Commissioner Hatling and Billiet will work to have a meeting with pizza to discuss the BMX track.

## **B. Community Park**

Dave Mandt, City Administrator discussed the community park donation made by Jerry and Kathy Berg. He asked the Park Commission if they would be the catalyst to move the community park discussion forward. The Park Commission was in consensus that there should be a brainstorming session of how to get the community to participate in the discussion and the build-out at upcoming meeting.

## **7. STAFF REPORT**

### **A. Review of Park Commissioners Terms**

All Park Commission currently have an active term.

Commissioner Ross asked if there is a way to establish a priority list to project to work on in the upcoming year and asked if there is information available for future improvements.

Park Commission suggested having a visioning session in early January 2009 to establish priorities. Staff will contact everyone via email.

Resident Randy Masica came forward thanking the Park Commission for the new trails in Riverpointe and asked if there are any future park plans in Riverpointe. Staff stated that there is a list of improvements to be made in Riverpointe Park that was included in the 2030 Comprehensive Plan as well as a map of park improvements that was developed by the developer and used as a marketing piece. Staff will send the information via email.

## **8. ADJOURN**

***THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION, SKOOG MOVED, SECONDED BY ROSS TO ADJOURN THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING AT 7:17 PM. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.***

Respectfully Submitted,

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Crystal Foust  
Senior Planner