

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

9:00 A.M.

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Present: Steve VanHouse
Tracy Tiboni
Shane Hoff
Jenny Bjerken
Nathan Stadler
Gene LaFond
Dick Stern

Bryan Carpenter, Parks & Rec Director
Cole Ernest, Chief of Police
Phil Huston
Nelson French

VanHouse called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda – Motion by Bjerken, second LaFond to approve the Agenda with addition of City Center Park under New Business and Marina Update under Old Business. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes – Motion by Bjerken, second Tiboni to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2025 Special Workshop and April 9, 2025 regular meeting with change to date of Five Year Plan tabled to date of May 7, 2025. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMUNICATIONS –

Public Comments- Chief Ernest expressed his thanks to Parks & Rec staff for their help with the bike rodeo. There was a concern regarding lack of communication between staff and Lake County staff and broken glass in the area.

OLD BUSINESS

Arena Update – Carpenter reported a small leak in the compressor room has been repaired and electrical work is being completed. There will be a person coming from Nebraska to inspect the tennis courts and provide an estimate for repair at the next meeting. Discussion regarding repairing two courts and use the third court for benches and practice area.

Black Beach Campground- Campground will be open for the season on May 15th. Staff has turned water on, site and shower area cleanup is complete. Fertilizer has been ordered and will be spread prior to opening day. Reservations continue to come in with a waiting list for some weekends. Discussion regarding status of signage, Carpenter will put temporary signs up. Chief Ernest stated there are no leash law signs at the beaches. Discussion followed regarding signage and doggie bags.

5-Year Plan Review- There were a few minor changes needed. Motion by Bjerken, second LaFond to recommend to Council for approval after minor changes made. MOTION CARRIED.

Summer Hires- Hiring process is going better this year with more applicants. Nick Bjerken has been hired to work the Campground office for the summer.

Summer Programs- Many programs have started or will start soon. Registration is down a bit from previous years. Discussion regarding low participant numbers in summer programs and possibility of combining with other communities.

Multi-Modal Trailhead Center- Senior Workshop services have been disconnected, asbestos cleaned up and demo will be starting soon. Funding is in place for project and projected mid-June contract award. Discussion followed regarding playground equipment which needs to be moved, relocating to another area or selling at auction.

Marina- Marina will be opening soon, fuel has been purchased. There is currently a waiting list for slips. Discussion regarding retail store status and c-dock status.

NEW BUSINESS –

Tennis Courts and Skatepark Lighting- MN Power has inspected the lights and determined all lights are outdated and are in need of repair. The estimated cost of \$5000 is to reconnect only with lighting being an additional cost. Discussion regarding removing or upgrade lighting, solar lighting, low usage of courts. Consensus of board is to keep lights for safety purposes and discuss options after the tennis court repair quote is received.

City Center Park and Amphitheater- Nelson French presented the proposed City Center Park and Amphitheater concept plan to the board. Rocky Wall Entertainment put together a group of local residents and raised funds to hire Damon Farber Architect Firm to design the concept plan, which will be presented to Council. The proposed park is planned in five phases to allow for development based on funding; phase 1 would include the City Hall parking lot improvements for which the City is currently working on for 2025. Various funding sources have been identified, with the first being a bonding request to the State for the 2026 Legislative Session, for which the City would need to be the applicant for. Discussion regarding showing the emergency services driveways on concept plan and that the Park and Rec Board included the City Center Park and Amphitheater in the Parks & Recreation Five-Year Plan that was recommended for approval.

Motion by Stadler, second Tiboni to adjourn at 9:55 a.m. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes taken by Lisa Christenson