

AUSTIN PARKS, RECREATION, AND FORESTRY BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 2, 2022
J.C. HORMEL NATURE CENTER
5:15 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Helen Jahr – Chairperson, DeeDee Marx, Rebecca Waller, Nik Johnsen, Justin Hanson and CeCe Kroc (remote)
MEMBERS ABSENT: Chris Grev
OTHERS PRESENT: Kevin Nelson, Randy Hofner, Luke Reese, Riley Donovan, Jeff Austin and Tricia Branden

Moved by Ms. Waller, seconded by Ms. Marx to approve the February agenda with one addition. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Johnsen, seconded by Ms. Waller to approve the January minutes. Carried.

Moved by Ms. Marx, seconded by Mr. Johnsen to approve the January bills. Carried.

Conversation was held again about the spring in Bandshell Community Park. The decision was made to table the issue for at least another month to explore more options of a solution other than the 3 that were proposed by the City Engineer - keeping budget and safety in mind as well.

Claire Michelson and Chris Janson from MSA joined the meeting remotely to present the first draft of the community survey. There were a few suggestions for additions/clarifications that they will add and bring back before it is presented to the general public.

Mr. Nelson provided a picture and update of the potential play equipment at Wildwood Park. It was agreed that the vista rope climber would be a good addition to the park however the climbing tower would be fantastic!

Moved by Mr. Hanson, seconded by Mr. Johnsen to allow the use of the parking lot only for the event happening near the Sola Fide Observatory. Carried.

Mr. Hanson shared his gratitude to Mr. Nelson for bringing him on to the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Board and for his guidance with him being a newcomer.

Mr. Johnsen reported that the disc golf club ordered their new baskets which will be fitted with red tops.

Mr. Reese shared a letter from Mr. Baudler concerning the grooming of the ski trails. We really just need more snow to properly address the issue. He also shared that he's working on getting more skis and Sydney has started her ski club with 4 girls participating; he's had a bit of scheduling problems to get 6th graders out there but will have 4 classes despite it. The track chairs are really gaining popularity with people from various parts of the state using them and it's very fun and rewarding to see the positive reactions the chairs are bringing.

Mr. Hofner said the outdoor ice rinks are up and running, staff was busy getting ready for the PTTP events with only a few minor hitches along the way, the plunge did go well. Otherwise, he commented, they're rebuilding picnic tables and park equipment along with the Nature Center sign.

Mr. Nelson reported that he has started preparing a list of duties/notes for staff in preparation for his departure and thus far has 3 pages.

Moved by Ms. Waller, seconded by Mr. Johnsen to adjourn the meeting until March 2, 2022 at 5:15 PM at the Nature Center. Carried.

Adjourned: 6:44 PM
Respectfully submitted,
Tricia Branden