

Parks Advisory Board Minutes
FEBRUARY 28, 2022

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Parks Advisory Board of the City of Buffalo, Minnesota, held a regular meeting at Buffalo City Center on the 28th day of January, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Dan Ackmann, Martyn Dibben, Ryan Gustafson, Heather Johnson, Emily Schroeder, Sarina Siljander, and Joe Volk.

Staff Members Present: Parks and Recreation Director Lee Ryan

Chairperson Ackmann called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 24th, 2022 MEETING

Dibben made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Volk seconded the motion, Wakefield abstained, with all other members voting in favor.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

None

OPEN FORUM

None

BUFFALO TRAIL BUILDERS REQUEST TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL BIKE TRAIL

Lee Ryan shared a video of a teenager using the Trapper's Pond Park bike trail and his super sick commentary.

Ryan explained how the trail has been well-received, and all have considered a successful partnership.

Due to this success, Ryan explained the Buffalo Trail Builders group is requesting to build another trail this season at Serenity Hills Park.

Gustafson, speaking for the trail builders group, explained Serenity Hills is a great park for this project in that it has elevation and will include some cool features.

He presented a map of potential trail routes and explained this park would be similar to the Trapper's Pond Park trails and be designed for all ability levels.

He asked we start the process so the trial builders can beat the mosquitoes.

Lee Ryan asked if the future plan is to eventually build something similar in Mills-Sturges Park. Gustafson replied yes- but others would have more info. They had discussed 3 parks to make a circuit for riders.

Schroeder stated the park is no well-used, and is surrounded by houses.

There was discussion about how the park is affected, with Gustafson stating only very small trees are removed where needed, and/or dead trees.

Dibben mentioned there will be more homeowners around this park, with potentially more concerns.

Volk made a motion to approve the trail plan concept, and start communicating with neighbors. Schroeder seconded the motion, with all members voting in favor.

DISCUSSION AND PUBLIC INPUT OF TENTATIVE SPLASH PAD PROJECT

Ryan gave a history of the West Pulaski Park splash pad project, and presented an updated site plan.

He stated they will be applying for a DNR grant, and tonight is the first effort to communicate with residents about the project. Information was posted on the website and the City Facebook page with the current plan, asking residents to come and share thought about the design and project. Ryan also stated letters and plans were mailed to all 9 residents directly neighboring the park property. Dan and Mary Abramowski stated they border the park and live on the lake. They have some concerns, such as who is paying for it. Ryan spoke of the private fundraising, the potential DNR Grant, and the City's responsibility of the balance. Amber Zednik, splash pad project organizer, discussed fundraising ideas. Schroeder asked of hours? Ryan stated those are to be determined, but estimated it will open around 12pm. Abramowski asked about trails in the park. Ryan stated there are none proposed- that the original plan included some trails by the landscape architects which have since been removed.

Mary Abramowski asked if it could be paired with a Community Center. Ryan replied this is a private fundraising project initially, and there is no current Community Center plan.

Zednik explained why the park was chosen- because of their group that used it, as well as for existing features.

There were no other public comments regarding the project.

UPDATES

Ryan stated the City will be looking to have a firm conduct a facility and use study over the summer, which we hope will result in a report to help guide us in needs and updates for current and future facilities.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURN

Chairperson Ackmann adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:35 p.m.


Chairperson


Parks & Recreation Director