



PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 12, 2023

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:18 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Hannah Mico, Kelli Jo Peltier, Carl Johnson, Max Gibbs, Megan Catcho, Stacy Bare

Others: David Marquardt (Grand Rapids Parks Department)

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Carl Johnson, supported by Megan Catcho, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Kelli Jo Peltier, supported by Carl Johnson, to approve the March 1, 2023 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Comments from Public

None.

Agenda Item(s)

Park signage

David reviewed the signs being installed at parks. The board did not have any questions and provided good feedback.

Canal Park and Greenway updates

David gave an update on upcoming projects and responded to board questions regarding timing, permitting and the ability to complete in the timeframe needed. The board reviewed the 6th Street and Canal Park Master Plan.

Discussion took place regarding a recreation hub at Coldbrook. The board agrees that this would be a good place to have such a facility.

Recycling/waste management in parks

Hannah stated there is a buildup of recyclables in parks and would like to see recycling bins. Hannah expressed concern about the lack of containers in parks during the winter months for any waste in parks. Hannah suggested a pilot program to have recycling near sports courts. The key will be messaging and ensuring it is clear what is recyclable. Stacy stated Friends of Grand Rapids Parks may be able to help support the education piece in partnership with the City.

It was suggested that the City contract the refuse and any recycling in parks during the winter months when there are fewer park maintenance seasonal staff.

Friends of Grand Rapids Parks offered to lead a fundraising effort to get vests for volunteers to help pick up pet waste.

Future agenda items

- Explore Your Parks (Friends of Grand Rapids Parks)
- Budget
- Seasonal Park staffing update
- Grand Loop and Trail building
- Rosa Parks furniture

Comments from the board

Stacy stated Friends of Grand Rapids Parks is hosting a West Side clean-up this weekend, April 15. There is also a tree planting event being planned for later this year.

The Huff Park parking lot needs repaving.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.