



**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

September 6, 2023

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Carl Johnson, Max Gibbs, Kelli Jo Peltier, Sam Moore, Hannah Mico, Stacy Bare

Others: David Marquardt, Michelle Slykhouse, Laura Cleypool (Grand Rapids Parks Department)

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Carl Johnson, supported by Max Gibbs, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Max Gibbs, supported by Kelli Jo Peltier, to approve the May 3, 2023 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Comments from Public

None.

Agenda Item(s)

Meeting schedule

Sam stated the first Wednesday typically conflicts with other meetings. Carl stated every other month is good. Sam stated it will be important to make sure the board meets ahead of the grant submittals or budget. The next meetings would be November and January. Max stated the trend of other boards seems to be every other month.

Motion made by Sam Moore, supported by Max Gibbs, to update the schedule to meet every other month on the first Wednesday starting November 2023. Discussion took place about changing January to not be the first week, as of now it will stay as January 3, 2024. A 2024 meeting schedule will be provided at the November meeting for board approval. Motion carried.

City ordinances

David provided update on the amendment made in August, and since that time has seen improvement in parks. Working through with other departments on how the new ordinances will be managed. Carl asked about legal challenges. David stated he is not aware of any formal legal action taken. Carl stated the number of items a person can carry seems arbitrary. Max stated it is starting to be a problem again on the north side of Bridge Street. Sam asked how to get the encampment along Butterworth proactively cleaned so the items do not go into the river when it floods in the spring.

Amphitheater development and 201 Market relocation

David provided an update on the current status of the Parks Department move from 201 Market to a new location due to the amphitheater project. The move will start in May 2024, the new site at 1500 Scribner will not be ready until about summer 2025.

Sam asked why city offices are moving from one riverfront property to another. David stated any riverfront development will take longer to start in that area along the river.

Carl asked if there is a plan in the interim, before the permanent move. David stated there are a few options (Coldbrook is one) where the Parks Department administration staff could potentially go until the permanent move.

Sam asked who would maintain and have prevue of any river edge trail. David stated it is still being determined. Sam asked if there is more discussion about the green ribbon (over and under of 131 to reduce the barrier). David is unsure. Sam asked if parks will be doing more activation along the river. David stated the outdoor fitness and GR Outside areas of the department have been successful and will be expanding in the future. Sam asked if the amphitheater sites would present the same opportunity for activation. More discussion on the ownership and responsibility of maintenance and programming is still in discussion.

Future agenda items

- 2024 meeting schedule
- Disc golf
- Budget and department operating plan
- Update on natural area plans for parks

Comments from the board

Hannah suggested surface treatment at the Garfield Park splash pad as it was too slippery.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6.58 p.m.