



222 Lewis Street
River Falls, WI 54022

Phone 715-425-0900
Fax 715-425-0915

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.
City Hall Training Room

Members Present: Patricia LaRue (chair), Brandon Dobbertin, Brenda Gaulke, Matt Janquart, and Melissa Pedrini.

Members Absent: Alyssa Mueller (Council Rep) and Natasha Schaefer.

Staff Present: Cindi Danke-Recreation Manager; Brenda Rundle-Recreation Assistant; and Amy White-Administrative Services Manager/City Clerk.

Others Present: Andrew Reese and Sean Downing.

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting convened at 5:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MSC Pedrini/Gaulke to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2022 Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting. Carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Non-Agenda Items

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Andrew Reese updated Park Board about the Sterling Hill Disc Golf Course. It has been about five years since he and a group of disc golfers first approached the Park Board about creating a second disc golf course in River Falls. (The first being at Hoffman Park.) It will be an 18-hole disc golf course located on a hill on 13 acres in the Sterling Ponds Park area. Since mapping and approvals, they raised nearly \$12,000.00 from 24 sources for hole, bench and basket sponsors. They cleared about 4 acres of buckthorn by hand. There have been 27 volunteers plus Andrew that put in 1,770 hours of volunteer work since April 2020. During the summer 2022, 18 tee pads were installed (artificial turf on a frame), 18 baskets were installed, and 18 benches were constructed. These items were all carried up the hill by hand (no vehicles or 4-wheelers). They continued clearing buckthorn and spread 1,150 lbs. of a low-growing, no-mow grass seed and 1,025 lbs. of fertilizer. Signage will be added, and a map will be created. He is speaking with Engineering about parking along Old Jersey Road. Depending on weather, the course should open in the spring. It will free and open to the public during daylight hours. At this time, alcohol is not allowed in Sterling Ponds Park. The club will be responsible for maintenance for five years after it opens. A kiosk, garbage can, portable toilet, picnic tables, and parking signage should be added. Buckthorn will be an on-going removal project. He shared two time-lapse videos showing the creation of the new disc golf course. He will be creating a documentary about it as well.

2. Cindi Danke updated Park Board that 81 shelter reservations were made in the first two days of January comparable to 41 the first two days last year. Year to date, there has been a total of over \$18,000.00 in shelter reservations. Winter rentals of Glover Station School may need to be discussed in the future to prevent snow/salt/sand damage to the hardwood floor.
3. The Focus River Falls Outdoor Recreation Plan update was attached to the agenda.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Park Board was asked to review the Hoffman Park Campground rules and the online reservation information and the memo that was attached to the agenda.

CALENDAR

The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting will be February 15, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

MSC Gaulke/Dobbertin to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda Rundle
Customer Service Representative