

**WATERTOWN PARK AND
RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES**

July 8, 2010

6:00 PM

Watertown City Hall, Council Chambers
309 Lewis Avenue South

Members Present: Chair Danette Painschab; Commissioners, Eric Billiet Andrew Hatling, Adam Pawelk, Michael Walters, Michael Madsen

Members Absent: Council Liaison, Dan Geiger, Vice Chair, Joel Skoog, Commissioner Daniel Ross

Staff Present: Senior Planner, Crystal Foust

Others Present: None

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM by Chair Danette Painschab.

2. ADOPT THE AGENDA

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. PAWELK MOVED, SECONDED BY WALTERS TO APPROVE THE PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FROM APRIL 8,, 2010. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

B. WALTERS MOVED, SECONDED BY HATLING TO APPORVE THE PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FROM MAY 13, 2010. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

C. WALTERS MOVED, SECONDED BY HATLING TO APPORVE THE PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FROM JUNE 10, 2010. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

4. RECOGNITION OF INTERESTED CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

NONE

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Riverpointe Park

During the Park Commission meeting in May and June, the Park Commission discussed Riverpointe Park. In May, the Commission prioritized the items that have been discussed for Riverpointe Park including the sand area/pond erosion, native plant garden, and the dog waste problem. The Park Commission prioritized the items in the following order: 1) pond erosion/sand area, 2) dog waste problem, 3) native plant garden.

The Park Commission in the past has considered putting in sand along the pond. Staff confirmed the cost for the sand for a 30x60 area 6 inches deep is \$560 which includes material, tax and delivery. The labor would be completed by Public Works.

A possible solution for the pond erosion is to rip the area where the shoreline is being eroded by people going in and out of the pond. The cost to riprap a 55 foot linear area 5 feet high is approximately \$650. The riprap would be 4-12 inches wide. It is anticipated that approximately 16 ton of riprap would be needed for the job. Sixteen ton of rip rap is \$650. At the Park Commission meeting in June, eight residents from Riverpointe subdivision were present. They expressed significant concerns about creating a sand beach and stated that riprap would be better. All agreed that if the erosion is the problem, the best solution would be riprap the shoreline and place sand.

Staff recommends placing riprap along the pond shore where the erosion is occurring. This is approximately 55 linear feet and will need approximately 16 ton of riprap. This still allows for people to use the pond for swimming, but is the best solution for erosion control. Stone steps could be made where it appears is the main entrance.

The Park Commission expressed that people won't want to enter into the pond with riprap on the edge. If we did stone steps, they may be slippery. The Park Commission stated that if riprap was placed in those areas that are eroding now, people may just go around the riprap and start eroding other places since riprap is not easy to walk on. The Park Commission suggested putting sand in the bay area farther to the east to encourage people to go to that area where the slope is more gradual. At the point where the Park Commission previously considered putting the sand is steeper than the bay area.

BILLIET MOVED, SECONDED BY HATLING TO RIPRAP THE POINT WHERE THE EROSION IS OCCURING AND PLACE SAND IN THE BAY AREA. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

B. Park Walk-Through Summary

Many items were discussed during the annual park walk-through on Tuesday, June 29th. The Park Commission members visited and discussed park improvements for City Center Park, Town Square, Old Mill Park, Rapid Waters Park, Evergreen Park, and Highland Park. Other parks that were discussed include Grove Street Hockey Rink and Riverpointe Park. Several years ago the City began to place park identification signs in the city parks. The following parks do not have the park signs: Ann Street, Highland Park (2nd sign at the corner of Hutchinson and High Street), Kings Highlands, Rapid Waters Park (memorial or historical plaque), and Sunset Ridge Park (in Forest Hills).

All of the maintenance items highlighted by the Public Works Supervisor during the park walk-through on June 29th have been recommended to be included in the 2011 budget. There were several other items discussed during the meeting that were more long-term improvements. Of those, the Park Commission recommended three items as priorities for 2011 budget (not in specific order).

1. Historical/memorial sign for Rapid Waters Park
2. Install dog disposal system (possibly doing something this year and more next year). This includes garbage cans and mailboxes for bags.
3. Replace gray/red trash can with decorative trash receptacle in City Center Park

Commissioner Hatling also recommended that the city continue to provide funding for youth programming. Staff stated that the Youth Commission (Splatter) receives the same amount as the Commission on Aging.

Since Highland Park is so highly visible by the community and people coming from other communities, the Park Commission has discussed updating the playground at Highland Park which was originally installed in the early 1980's. Staff stated that although next year's budget won't allow for funding for updating the playgrounds in the community, it may be beneficial to budget for some funding for Highland Park playground to possibly install a new one in 2012. Staff will recommend including \$5,000 in capital improvements for Highland Park playground. Staff suggested that the city seek grant funding to help offset the cost of the playground at Highland Park. Commissioner Billiet suggested that the city look into establishing a park legacy foundation with non-profit status to be able to apply for more funding.

As a maintenance item, Commissioner Pawelk expressed that it is important to clean out the storm water pipe in Rapid Waters Park which has filled with sediment over time.

C. Scoop the Poop Campaign update

The Park Commission discussed the Scoop the Poop campaign that has started recently after receiving public feedback that there is a significant problem with pet waste not being picked up in several locations including public city parks. The Park Commission suggested that the first step in the campaign is to put mailboxes with bags and signage in the parks and along trails. The mailboxes would be filled with bags from department stores and grocery stores and reused for this purpose. The second step the Park Commission wanted to take is a sign contest. Commissioner Billiet dropped off letters to all the restaurants in town requesting consideration for donating towards to Scoop to Poop campaign. The third step would be to create a brochure or materials to hand out at the Groom Room, Vet Clinic, and at City Hall when people get their dog license so that people encountering dog owners would have uniform literature highlighting the health hazards and importance of cleaning up after the dog. This campaign is to be on-going, but the Park Commission members recommended starting small and continuing to get the word out and display signage publicly in parks and along trails.

D. SHIP grant action plan

SHIP (Statewide Health Improvement Program) is an integral part of Minnesota's nation-leading 2008 health reform law, striving to help Minnesotans lead longer, healthier lives by preventing

the chronic disease risk factors of tobacco use and exposure, poor nutrition and physical inactivity. SHIP seeks to create sustainable, systematic changes in schools, worksites, communities and health care organizations that make it easier for Minnesotans to incorporate healthy behaviors into their daily lives. Carver and Scott County have collaborated to do the SHIP activities. For the community intervention component in Watertown, SHIP funding can be used on things such as signage and bike racks, in addition to planning and policy efforts such as working with other facilities or partners to increase value of existing assets, working with schools to develop safe routes to school, planning, bench donations programs, walking audits or workshops. Staff has completed step 1 which is to conduct an assessment. The City is now on step 2 which is create an action plan. After step 1, the city will receive \$4,000; after step 2, \$3,000; and after step 3, \$3,000 for a total of \$10,000 to use for the active living initiative efforts.

Staff has prepared a draft action plan for the Park Commission. Park Commission members inquired about the current efforts such as the trail naming project and Scoop the Poop campaign. Things such as signs and benches as part of the current efforts could be eligible to use the grant money.

After the action plan is completed, staff will start step 3 which is to implement the action plan which the City can use the money received so far through the SHIP grant. Staff stated that the action plan was written with flexibility to allow the City and the Park Commission to use the funding to incorporate current efforts.

The Park Commission had no additional comments on the action plan.

E. Trail naming project

The Park Commission discussed the trail naming project that was started a couple of months ago. The Park Commission discussed a theme for the trail names. They discussed doing historical trail markers highlighting significant people from Watertown, for example, war heroes or the first mayor. A description of the group or person would also be on the sign. They also suggested putting mile markers on the trail signs for emergency purposes. Staff will contact the Watertown Historical Society about the project and continue to talk about the project next month. The signage would be eligible for funding from the SHIP grant.

6. NEW BUSINESS

7. STAFF REPORT

None

8. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

A. Splatter Summer Events

Commissioner Hatling outlined the Splatter Summer events planned in July

July 9th Concert

July 16th Photo Scavenger Hunt

July 22nd Movie in the Park at Highland Park

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July 23rd Ultimate Tourney at the Community Park

July 24th Battle of the Bands and Splatter will have a float in the parade

Commissioner Hatling also stated he met with the Public Works Supervisor and has three artists lined up to paint the inside of the hockey rink shelter at Grove Street Hockey Rink.

9. ADJOURN

THE JULY 8, 2010 WATERTOWN PARK AND RECREATION MEETING ADJOUNED AT 7:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Crystal Foust
Senior Planner