

MINUTES
CITY OF DELANO
Park and Recreation Commission
Wednesday, March 25, 2020
5:00 PM

1. **PLEASE NOTE**, due to COVID-19, the meeting will be conducted via telephone or other electronic means as allowed under Minnesota Statutes, Section 13D.021. Please use the following link to view the live meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/650899837?pwd=T1Rtdnc3bEw1ZTFmekxMMjE0YjJLdz09>
Password: 393919

2. **Call to Order**

Chair Werth called the meeting to order at 5:05pm via virtual conference.

3. **Roll Call and Approval of Agenda**

Members Present: Joe Schleper, Jonathan Werth, Kevin Koehler, Tom Schafer, Marnie Lucas, Jessie Koch, Delano Schools Liaison Chris Runke

Members Absent: Sarah Berres

Also present: Phil Kern, City Administrator

4. **Order of Business**

A. Discuss Parks and Trails Plan

Kern presented a summary of the Parks and Trails Plan. The summary included a document outlining the City's preference relating to planning of future park spaces and amenity needs. A second summary page highlighted the goals and objectives of each type of park in the City and the locations that meet each type of park. Lastly, Kern shared the map from the Parks and Trails Plan identifying both existing park facilities and future park goals/needs.

The Commission discussed the documents, the highlights of what each presented, and the additional information the Commission would like to see addressed. Schafer suggested that the Parks map be expanded to show the Litfin acquisition and modify the boundaries of the map to show the potential development area of that park. Schleper added that the documents could identify the neighborhood park amenities, both what is currently available and missing, along with the barriers that prevent access to those amenities from other areas of town. Werth commented that identifying and auditing existing parks, and showing what's missing would take the map to the next level in terms of usefulness. Werth added that the map shows the missing park features in the northwest area of the City. Sutherland suggested it would be a good addition to show more directly how the City connects to other communities and areas for substantial park additions would be good. Lucas commented that the document identifying the City's process for evaluating future park components could add in a landscaping and tree review. Schleper agreed that prioritizing tree identification would be good in future park planning.

Kern stated that staff would incorporate these comments in changes to the documents and bring them back to a future meeting for review.

B. Discuss contingency planning for parks and recreation facilities during community health emergency

Kern updated the Commission that the City has declared a community health emergency, following the actions by the Governor to declare a state of emergency across the state due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The community health emergency grants the City the ability to take quick and decisive action outside of normal protocols to address potential threats to the health and safety of the community.

Kern asked for Commission feedback related to playgrounds and multi-purpose sport courts within the City. Kern stated that the Governor's order did not expressly state playgrounds were required to be closed, but that a number of area communities including Wright County have been closing playgrounds. Kern added that staff has received more than a few comments from residents encouraging the City to close playgrounds.

The Commission discussed closing or restricting access to playgrounds and sport courts. The discussion included concerns about how to enforce closure and how to properly create a physical closure of outside facilities. The Commission concluded that it would encourage the City to sign all playgrounds and sport courts discouraging public use and informing the public that the facilities cannot be properly cleaned and sanitized, therefore safe use cannot be expected.

C. Review Liberty Landing park planning

Kern stated that Landscape Structures is working on a playground design for Liberty Landing, but at the time of the meeting it had not been shared yet. Kern stated that he would place it on a future agenda for consideration.

D. Discuss Ice Skating/Hockey Facility

Kern shared that due to the community health emergency, a planned meeting to work on the financing process for the skating/hockey facility had been canceled and needed to be rescheduled. Kern added that the City Council had stated its support for moving ahead with the project and staff was working to develop more details with the Youth Hockey Association and DASA.

5. Other Business

A. Review matters from previous meetings

Werth shared the tree donation request to Wright County Soil and Water Conservation District was approved. Werth stated that the trees were expected in late April and he would work with the Public Works Department to schedule a planting effort.

Koch shared that her family had visited the Parkview Hills play area and the new playground. She stated that it was a very nice playground and the residents should really like it.

6. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.