

MINUTES
CITY OF DELANO
Park and Recreation Commission
Wednesday, May 27, 2020
5:00 PM

1. *PLEASE NOTE, due to COVID-19, the meeting will be conducted via Zoom video conferencing as allowed under Minnesota Statutes, Section 13D.021. For those who would like to view or listen to the public meeting, please log into Zoom:*

*<https://zoom.us/j/91135335933?pwd=MTdIZ21PK3pMaXIWRTZGUDJFWjdVQT09>
Password: 597868*

2. **Call to Order**

Chair Werth called the meeting to order at 5:04pm via virtual conference.

3. **Roll Call**

Members Present: Joe Schleper, Jonathan Werth, Kevin Koehler, Sarah Berres, Marnie Lucas, Jessie Koch, Schools Liaison Ryan Tool

Members Absent: Tom Schaffer

Also present: Phil Kern, City Administrator, Rebecca Gaida, Intern, Jon Sutherland, Councilmember

4. **Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Schleper, second by Lucas, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passes.

5. **Minutes**

- A. April 29, 2020

Motion by Schleper, second by Koch to approve the minutes of April 22, 2020, as presented. Motion passes.

6. **Order of Business**

- A. Discuss potential Splashpad use for summer 2020

Kern discussed the plan for opening the Splashpad on Tuesday, May 26th. There is a plan in place to open the Splashpad but no authority to open for public use. The plan is to allow small groups (10 or less) to make a weekly reservation for 45 minutes with 15 minutes between groups for cleaning. Delano residents will be given priority. There will be no charge for using the Splashpad, no concessions, and the restrooms will only be available for emergencies. The Splashpad will be staffed with one attendant to check in reservations and clean between uses.

A draft of the preparedness plan was sent to the Parks Commission to review.

Lucas then asked about which features will be turned on or off. Kern mentioned that features that are touches (like the elephant or frog) will be disabled. Werth added a comment about the costs, suggesting \$10/session. Berres also commented on the cost asking how to offset the expense to the city. Kern replied that the expense of running the Splashpad for the summer would be \$25,000 which could be absorbed into the general fund. A payment system and credit card fees would be a burden to admin staff. Sutherland mentioned that the Council did not object to free use of the facility. Koehler voiced his support for waiving the cost. Lucas commented on setting a precedence to which Koch replied that this summer the Splashpad could be a “service or gift” to the public in light of the current pandemic. Lucas asked if opening the Splashpad this summer would be a liability. Kern mentioned that the City’s Attorney has drafted a terms and conditions statement for the reservation system. Kern also commented again on the cost of operating the Splashpad which could be offset by increased profits from the liquor store.

Motion made by Koch, seconded by Werth to approve Splashpad plan. Motion passes.

B. Review concepts for Highland Ridge and Parkview Hills park improvements

Kern presented the plan for pickleball and tennis courts in Riverside park, Highland Ridge, and Parkview Hills. Four pickleball courts will be built at Riverside park. The construction will cost around \$50,000 which can be offset by doing work in house using the Public Works Department. A tennis court will be built at Highland Ridge, again using the Public Works Department to offset the costs. This tennis court will cost about \$35,000. Another tennis court will be built at Parkview Hills. The cost of this tennis court, with Public Works doing some base work, is \$35,000. The budget set for this year was \$75,000 and all three facilities will cost \$120,000.

Werth asked about the price, will the city save money by doing all three projects in one year versus splitting the projects over multiple years. Kern replied that there will be some savings in the fencing and blacktop by completing the projects in one year. Kern also mentioned extra revenue of \$14,000 and a US tennis association grant could offset the costs. Schleper asked if Public Works are available to work on this project. Kern mentioned that the workload for the Public Works Department decreases in the months of July and August. It would be possible to start construction on the facilities later in the summer so Public Works can assist. Koehler asked about the difference in price between installing 4 pickleball courts versus 2. Kern replied that only installing 2 pickleball courts could save about \$15,000-20,000. Tools mentioned that a group of pickleball courts would be more useful to which Schleper agreed. Kern again commented on finances saying that the parks dedication has \$300,000 balance and budget projections are conservative. Berres asked if the trees at Parkview will be replaced. Kern replied that the trees will be relocated or replaced.

Koehler motions to approve facilities with assistance from tennis court grant funding, Berres seconds. Motion passes.

C. Review Liberty Landing Park improvements

Kern shared a plan for the Liberty Landing park with a play structure and swings. There will be new trees planted in the neighborhood. Sutherland asked about a trail leading to the river. Kern replied that the developer will put in a path and the city needs to mow the tall grass.

D. Update on hockey/skating facility

Kern had talked with the hockey association about proceeding with the facility. The association is concerned about revenue and covering the \$500,000 costs. The City engineer is working on plans. Sutherland asked about the timeline. Kern mentioned that there is no timeline for when hockey will resume. Kern also shared a document with the financial plan for the project. The total cost is \$3.1 million. There is a funding gap of \$1.1 million. Tools asked if the ice will be owned by the City of Delano. Kern replied that the facility is city owned, but the hockey organizations will be managing the schedule. The school will have to reserve the facility with the hockey association.

E. Update on Litfin property

Kern updated the Parks Commission on the Litfin Property. The City had attempted to fill in the holes around 2016-2017. Since then, federal guidance has changed and the holes are no longer considered wetlands so the City may continue to fill them in. The City engineer and planner have been involved. Koehler asked about putting in canoe access from the Litfin property to which Kern replied that canoe access is possible. Werth then mentioned that the City should reconnect with Wright County about contributing.

7. Other Business

A. Review outstanding items from previous meetings

Shleper asked about some trees by the batting cages and if they will be taken down. Kern replied that the city will remove the trees. The commission is planning on meeting in person next month at either Central Park or Liberty Landing should the conditions allow. Werth brought up trees planted at Litfin property by the Boy Scouts.

Motion to adjourn by Koch seconded by Werth.

8. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm