

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
Park and Recreation Commission Members
FROM: Bill Waller, City Administrator
DATE: January 20, 2021
RE: Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2021

The La Crescent Park and Recreation Commission met at 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, in the City Council Chambers at the La Crescent City Hall. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. Section 13D.021 and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, members of the Park & Recreation Commission and City staff were given the option to attend the meeting by telephone or zoom. The following members were present in person: Jon Steffes, Paul McLellan, Sarah Wetterlin, Diana Adamski, and Mike Limberg. Commission members Eileen Krenz and Randy Dobbs were not in attendance. Also in attendance in person were Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner, Chris Fortsch and Bill Waller.

1. Brief introductions were held.
2. It was the consensus of the Commission to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2021 Park and Recreation Commission meeting as presented.
3. Discussion was held regarding current and future trail extensions, including the development of a trail connection between the Apple Blossom Point development in the City and the Horse Thief Ridge development in La Crescent Township. Don Hill who has worked on laying out a connection between the two properties was in attendance at the meeting and reviewed the proposed plan and property owners involved in the trail extension. Tom Tornstrom from the La Crescent Town Board was in attendance at the meeting and provided an update to the Commission on the Township easement that is necessary to connect the two properties. It was the consensus of the Commission to have Jason Ludwigson, the City's Sustainability Coordinator, work with the property owner to facilitate the development of an easement to allow for the trail connection to be extended across private property.
4. Further discussion, including a review of the City's Blufflands Plan, was held with Tom Tornstrom and the possibility of Mr. Tornstrom granting an easement across properties that he owns in La Crescent Township to further extend a trail connection between Crescent Hills Drive and Vetsch Park. It was the consensus of the Commission to have Jason Ludwigson work with Mr. Tornstrom to facilitate the development of this easement.
5. The Commission was informed of the City's intent to proceed with the development of a formal plan focused on maintenance and permitted uses in the City's natural spaces. The project is proposed to begin in the second half of 2021 with the Park & Recreation Commission playing an active role in the development of the plan.

6. The Commission was updated on the status of the third phase of the Wagon Wheel improvement project, and a copy of the preliminary plan for the project was reviewed.
7. The Commission reviewed the outdoor skating rink that was installed on the City's lot on the corner of Main Street and Oak Street for use in the winter of 2020/2021, and the possibility of similar projects in the future.
8. The Commission was informed that Wieser Park was in the process of being transferred from La Crescent Township to the City of La Crescent.
9. A request to install lights at the sand volleyball courts at Old Hickory Park was distributed with the understanding that it will be on the agenda for the next Park & Recreation Commission meeting.
10. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission would be Tuesday, February 16, 2021, at 5:30 pm., at City Hall.
11. There being nothing further to discuss the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:47 pm.