

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
Park and Recreation Commission Members
FROM: Bill Waller, City Administrator
DATE: February 17, 2021
RE: Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2021

The La Crescent Park and Recreation Commission met at 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, February 16, 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, Jason Ludwigson, and Bill Waller.

1. It was the consensus of the Commission to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2021 Park and Recreation Commission meeting as presented.
2. Lisa Smith was in attendance at the meeting to review her interest in developing a competitive sand volleyball league that would use the courts at Old Hickory Park, and her request to install lights at the courts. Discussion followed, and it was the consensus of the Commission that the request to establish the volleyball league be approved on a trial basis for 2021, and that the request to install lights at the courts be re-evaluated in the fall of 2021. A copy of the request is attached to these minutes.
3. Jason Ludwigson, the City's Sustainability Coordinator, was in attendance at the meeting and provided an update to the Commission regarding on-going work to secure easements to allow for the development of trails that are identified in the City's Blufflands Plan. It was the consensus of the Commission that Mr. Ludwigson would continue to work on developing and securing easements with private property owners to allow for the continued expansion of new trails that are identified in the City's Blufflands Plan.
4. Jon Steffes provided a brief update regarding the 2021 summer recreation season and schedule. It was the consensus of the Commission that final decisions regarding programming for the summer of 2021 would not be finalized until May, and that the Commission would continue to have monthly meetings and monitor the current on-going health pandemic prior to finalizing a decision regarding programming for the summer of 2021.
5. Administrative Clerk Chris Fortsch reviewed with the Commission the USTA adult tennis league that began play in 2020 three nights a week. It was the consensus of the Commission that the league play continue in 2021, with a review of the season to be completed prior to the beginning of the 2022 season.

6. The Commission was updated on the City's efforts to develop 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.
7. The Commission reviewed the outdoor skating rink that was installed on the City's lot on the corner of Main and Oak Street and discussed locations for a second rink for the winter of 2021/2022.
8. The Commission was informed that the transfer of Wieser Park from La Crescent Township to the City of La Crescent was complete. Chris Fortsch reviewed how La Crescent Township administered the park, existing park amenities, and immediate and future maintenance items that will need to be addressed. It was agreed that this item would be put on the agenda for the next meeting for additional discussion.
9. Information was presented on the Drift Bike share as a potential project for 2022.
10. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission would be Monday, March 15, 2021, at 5:30 pm., at City Hall.
11. There being nothing further to discuss the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:07 pm.