

TO: Park & Recreation Commission Members
FROM: Bill Waller, City Administrator
Jon Steffes, Summer Recreation Director
DATE: April 2, 2021
RE: Meeting Notice
Tuesday, April 13, 2021
5:30 p.m., La Crescent City Hall
315 Main Street

AGENDA

1. Consideration of meeting minutes – March 15, 2021.
2. Jon Steffes will review the 2021 summer recreation season, including an update on the sign-up for summer recreation programming.
3. Discussion regarding aquatic center capacity limits for 2021, and limiting attendance at the facility based on residency requirements similar to the 2020 season. An article from the La Crosse Tribune regarding the City of La Crosse pools is included. Discussion regarding the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding that the City will be receiving, and the provision to use a portion of the funds for reductions in revenue.
4. An update will be provided at the meeting on the status of easements for the trail extensions that have been discussed at previous Commission meetings.
5. The Commission will discuss the update to the City's Comprehensive Park & Recreation Plan which would include a formal plan to address the maintenance and permitted uses in the City's natural spaces.
6. Discussion regarding closing trails in certain parks during the spring thaw as a way to mitigate damage to the trails.
7. Update on the third phase of the Wagon Wheel improvement project, the construction of the bicycle/pedestrian bridge over MN State Highway 14/61.
8. Preliminary discussion regarding the extension of the Root River Trail to the City of La Crescent.
9. Additional Discussion Items.
10. Set date for next Commission meeting.
11. Adjournment.

NOTICE

Please take notice that pursuant to Minn. Stat. Section 13D.021, members of the Park & Recreation Commission may attend the meeting by telephone or zoom.

Please call me at 895-2595, or e-mail me at bwaller@cityoflacrescent-mn.gov, if you will not be able to attend, have questions, or need more information.

Thank you.

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
Park and Recreation Commission Members
FROM: Bill Waller, City Administrator
DATE: March 16, 2021
RE: Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2021

The La Crescent Park and Recreation Commission met at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, March 15, 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, and Sarah Wetterlin. Diana Adamski was present via Zoom. Commission members Eileen Krenz, Mike Limberg, and Randy Dobbs were not in attendance. Also in attendance in person were Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner, Chris Fortsch, and Bill Waller.

1. It was the consensus of the Commission to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2021 Park and Recreation Commission meeting as presented.
2. A memo from Jason Ludwigson, the City's Sustainability Coordinator, was reviewed with 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. This item will be placed on the agenda for the next Park & Recreation Commission meeting.
3. Jon Steffes provided an 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 be reviewed and discussed at the April Park & Recreation Commission meeting.
4. 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. Discussion followed regarding the City's 2012 Comprehensive Park & Recreation Plan, and the changes that have happened in the community since the plan was adopted. Further discussion will follow regarding the possibility of updating the City's Comprehensive Park & Recreation Plan and incorporating the development of a formal plan to address maintenance and permitted uses in the City's natural spaces as part of that process.
5. The Commission discussed the operation and maintenance of Wieser Park. It was the consensus of the Commission that for 2021 the City would take reservations for the shelter at the park, and in 2021 there would be no fee charged for use of the shelter.
6. Information was presented on the 2021 Arbor Day tree planting project, the third phase of the Wagon Wheel improvement project, and the conceptual plan for a shelter at Veterans Park.

7. The Commission discussed in the future closing trails in certain parks during the spring thaw as a way to mitigate damage to the trails. This item will be discussed in more detail at the April Park & Recreation Commission meeting.
8. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission would be Tuesday, April 13, 2021, at 5:30 pm., at City Hall.
9. There being nothing further to discuss the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:12 pm.

Pools set to reopen

City to allow 50% capacity this summer

OLIVIA HERKEN
La Crosse Tribune

La Crosse's three public pools and splash pads will reopen this summer with reduced capacity and COVID protocols in place, after they remained closed last

ONLINE

For pool summer hours, or to comment, click on this story at lacrossetribune.com

summer due to the pandemic. "I really am excited to offer this opportunity to the community while maintaining all the

safety protocols provided to us by the La Crosse County Health Department and the CDC," McKenzie Wilson with the La Crosse Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department told the Board of Park Commissioners Thursday.

The city's three pools will open Saturday, June 5 with 50% capacity and social distancing in place, and will space out swim-

ming lessons and open swim sessions to allow for sanitation in between.

The capacity limit will apply

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■ **INSIDE:** Mayoral candidate pledges fresh drinking water for French Island; local council candidates share views, A5

Pools

From A1

to both the physical pool and the surrounding decks. Erickson Pool will be able to hold 300, North Side Community Pool 280 and Veterans Memorial Pool 200.

Officials will require participants to register that will help them contact trace easily in case of a positive case, and patrons will be able to sign-in using a QR code and a smartphone upon entering the space, with paper alternatives for those without phones.

Patrons will be required to wear a mask when entering locker rooms and lobby area, and encouraged to on the pool deck — health officials do not recommend wearing a face covering in the water — and sanitation stations will be set up in common areas.

Pool staff will also be en-

Staff are also being prepared to operate under new procedures and modifications, and will be scheduled into teams to reduce exposure.

sureing there is limited congregating at the facilities, and markings and signage in the lobby, locker rooms, pool deck, in line for slides and diving boards will be in place to serve as reminders.

In addition, the water fountains at all pools will be turned off to avoid spreading of germs.

Furniture on the pool deck will also be limited, and will be marked off and separated.

The number of individuals on play features will be limited to avoid crowding, and distancing will be implemented for lap swimming, with one swimmer per lane at a time, and required swimming in the middle of lanes.

The city's splash pads are

harder to limit capacity, officials said, but there will be signs up to encourage physical distancing when they reopen.

Lifeguards and pool staff will wear masks when moving throughout the facility and when lifeguarding in a standing position. Lifeguards seated in chairs can remove masks.

Staff are also being prepared to operate under new procedures and modifications, and will be scheduled into teams to reduce exposure. More flexible sick leave is also being introduced.

The responsibilities of a lifeguard won't be hindered due to additional social distancing, COVID-safe monitoring, the city said, and

there will be separate staff who screen and monitor patrons.

The city will space out its swimming sessions so that it can sanitize the facility — including ladders, handrails, tables, doorknobs, switches, deck furniture, drinking fountains, emergency phones, toilets, faucets, sinks and diving equipment. The spaces will be sanitized every break between sessions and before open and after closing each day.

Swimming lessons will be taught with one instructor per five swimmers to limit capacity, and instructors will remain six feet apart from students and wear a face shield, not a mask, while in the water. Swimmers can have one adult in attendance who is required to wear a mask on the pool deck.

Open swim will be split into two sessions at each pool this summer.

La Crosse Tribune
March 20, 2021