

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF OAK CREEK PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY COMMISSION
MAY 21, 2020**

1. Call Meeting to Order/Roll Call

Chair Schreiber-Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. The following members were present at roll call: Commissioner Bautch, Commissioner Theys, Commissioner Ryan, Commissioner Beyer and Chair Schreiber-Johnson. Alderman Guzikowski and Commissioner Thiel, were excused. Also present: Jeff Wendt, Parks Maintenance Supervisor and Laurie Miller, Zoning Administrator. Public Works Director Ted Johnson joined the meeting at 6:15 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes – January 9, 2020

Commissioner Ryan motioned to table the approval of the minutes of the January 9, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Bautch seconded. On roll call: All voted aye. Motion carried.

3. New Business

a) Election of Commission Chairperson and Secretary

Zoning Administrator Miller opened the floor to nominations for Committee Chairperson. Commissioner Ryan nominated Chair Schreiber-Johnson. Commissioner Beyer seconded. Zoning Administrator Miller made a call for other nominations. Hearing none, the nominations were closed. On roll call, all voted aye.

Chair Schreiber-Johnson opened the floor to nominations for Committee Secretary. Commissioner Ryan nominated Commissioner Beyer. Chair Schreiber Johnson seconded. Zoning Administrator Miller made a call for other nominations. Hearing none, the nominations were closed. On roll call, all voted aye.

b) Staff Report

Zoning Administrator Miller reviewed project updates throughout the city. (see staff report for details).

This item was informational only and a vote was not required.

c) Proposal for Consideration: Approval of 2020-2021 Meeting Dates

Zoning Administrator Miller proposed dates for the 2020-2021 meeting schedule and suggested turning the parks tour slated for July 9, 2020, into a regular meeting. (see staff report for details).

Chair Schreiber-Johnson expressed interest in a tour of sites which the City identified as in need of attention, in conjunction with a walk on the new Oak Leaf Trail extension.

Commissioner Ryan suggested if Parks Maintenance Supervisor Wendt would provide direction, Commissioners could embark on a self-guided tour prior to the July 9, 2020 meeting.

Commissioner Ryan made a motion to approve the proposed meeting schedule for 2020-2021. Commissioner Theys seconded. On roll call: all voted aye. Motion carried.

d) Proposal for Consideration: Frank Carini and Scott Holler, Oak Creek High School Baseball Team, to propose improvements to the baseball fields at Johnstone Park, Carrollton Park and Riverton Meadows Park which would allow the parks to be eligible for tournament activities.

Mr. Carini and Mr. Holler questioned the City's plans for baseball now that there was no longer access to the three fields at Oak Creek High School. Mr. Holler expressed his frustration at the lack of home fields available for teams to rent within City limits. He suggested Carrollton Park, Riverton Meadows Park and Cedar Hills (Johnstone) Park could be made tournament ready with minor improvements. (see letter attached to staff report for details).

Mr. Carini expressed his opinion that the City needs these baseball fields to be competitive and that taxpayers should be able to rent home fields in their own community.

Mr. Holler voiced the opinion that Oak Creek taxpayers should not pay another municipality for the use of fields we could have in our own city.

Zoning Administrator Miller stated that Shepard Hills is the only major-minor ballfield the City owns, while the School District owns two. Zoning Administrator Miller provided an overview of the baseball fields and parks specifically mentioned by Mr. Holler noting that the City only owns Carrollton Park, while it leases Riverton Meadows and Johnstone Park from the County. (see staff report for details). Zoning Administrator Miller noted that the three parks are neighborhood-level parks which are meant for the use and enjoyment of the residents living in the surrounding neighborhood. Each of the parks lack restrooms, off-street parking, lighting and other amenities typically associated with fields that can support a larger number of users.

Zoning Administrator Miller stated that this proposal is not a simple question of approving fencing and base pegs. Zoning Administrator explained that the proposal projected the improvements would result in approximately 80 games being played at the three fields. Zoning Administrator Miller expressed staff's concern for the increased traffic, parking, and noise impacts on the surrounding neighborhoods.

Mr. Carini estimated that each game would produce approximately 40 cars per game.

Zoning Administrator Miller stated that this level of traffic is better suited for a community-level park similar in size to Abendschein or Lake Vista Park, where off-street parking and restroom facilities are available.

Chair Schrieber-Johnson and Commissioner Beyer agreed that the City needs more field availability. Commissioner Bautch concurred.

Commissioner Ryan and Mr. Holler discussed the need for restroom facilities at the sites. Mr. Carini suggested that a port-o-potty would suffice.

Commissioner Ryan, Zoning Administrator Miller and Chair Schrieber-Johnson spoke about the dynamics of working with the County.

Parks Maintenance Supervisor Wendt provided insight to the existing field quality and the amount of maintenance required before each field would be up to a level that could support competitive play. Parks Maintenance Supervisor Wendt questioned what level of upkeep Mr. Holler was envisioning for the fields.

Mr. Holler reiterated the fields in their current state are already better than what they are renting in Milwaukee; they are just missing pegs and fencing. Mr. Holler stated if the grass was cut, the field was chalked and the kids could play a competitive game without parents having to drive 20 minutes, it would be an improvement.

Commissioner Bautch concurred with Mr. Holler's assessment that any upgrades would be a vast improvement over some of the fields teams are currently renting.

Zoning Administrator Miller concluded that staff would need to do more research and information gathering before proceeding with further discussion.

Commissioner Ryan made a motion for staff to review and investigate the proposal's community benefits, costs and neighborhood impacts. Commissioner Beyer seconded. On roll call: all voted aye. Motion carried.

e) Proposal for Consideration: Review Changes to the 2020 Fees for Park Facilities and Recreation Programs

Zoning Administrator Miller provided an overview of the recreation fees and charges that are reviewed and approved by the Parks Commission annually. Zoning Administrator Miller also outlined proposed adjustments to the 2020 fees (see staff report for details).

Chair Schrieber-Johnson questioned the fee increases on several of the line items.

Zoning Administrator Miller explained that increases had not been happening consistently and these fee changes would bring Oak Creek in line with what other communities charge. Commissioner Bautch made a motion that the Parks Commission approve the proposed

adjustments to the 2020 list of recreation fees and charges. Commissioner Ryan seconded. On roll call: all voted aye. Motion carried.

f) Proposal for Consideration: Review of Final Skate Park Design

Zoning Administrator Miller provided an overview of the final design and cost of the Abendschein Skate Park project (see staff report for details).

Several Commissioners expressed their approval and asked when the project would begin.

Public Works Director Johnson anticipated a bid would go out within a month of receiving the final engineering plans and that construction would begin by late summer or early fall.

Commissioner Ryan made a motion that the Parks Commission recommend to Common Council the approval of the final design for the Abendschein Skate Park project. Commissioner Bautch seconded. On roll call: all voted aye. Motion carried.

g) Review and Discussion: Public Participation Plan for Future Ryan Business (Amazon) Neighborhood Park

Zoning Administrator Miller initiated a discussion of the future development of the Ryan Business (Amazon) Neighborhood Park. Zoning Administrator Miller also sought to identify two Parks Commission members to assist with a public participation plan and subsequent community outreach (see staff report for details).

Zoning Administrator Miller noted although she felt the time commitment would be minimal, she did understand that each of the Commissioner's had other full-time responsibilities and were already volunteering their time to sit on the Commission.

Chair Schrieber-Johnson requested that Zoning Administrator Miller provide a rough framework of the steps entailed in forging a participation plan, so that Commissioners could gage the commitment required before agreeing to assist with the project.

Zoning Administrator Miller responded that the Commissioners also had the option to decline participation, but she reiterated how much she would value the input and support.

This item was informational only and a vote was not required.

h) Review and Discussion: Public Participation Plan for Future Orchard Hills Pocket Park

Zoning Administrator Miller initiated a discussion of the future development of the Orchard Hills Pocket Park. Zoning Administrator Miller also sought to identify two Parks Commission members to assist with outreach (see staff report for details).

This item was informational only and a vote was not required.

4. **Adjournment**

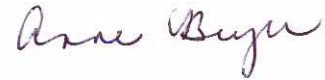
Chair Schrieber-Johnson motioned to adjourn. On roll call: all voted aye. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Prepared By:



Laurie Miller
Zoning Administrator

Respectfully Submitted,



Anne Beyer
OCPRF Secretary