

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
Park and Recreation Commission Members
FROM: Bill Waller, City Administrator
DATE: July 30, 2024
RE: Meeting Minutes
July 29, 2024

The La Crescent Park and Recreation Commission met at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, July 29, 2024, in the Wieser Park Pavilion at Wieser Park. The following members were present: Maseray Bangura, Patti Martell, Marge Loch-Wouters, Diana Adamski, Jon Steffes and Paul McLellan. Commission member Sarah Wetterlin was not in attendance. Also in attendance were Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner, Tyler Benish, Chris Fortsch, Jason Ludwigson, and Bill Waller.

1. It was the consensus of the Commission to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2024 Park and Recreation Commission meeting as presented.
2. The Commission discussed the 2025 park and recreation season, and the plan to transfer a portion of the responsibility for recreation programming to La Crescent Youth Ball and La Crescent-Hokah Community Education. As proposed, baseball and softball programming for 6,7 and 8 year olds would be transferred to La Crescent Youth Ball; and programming for t-ball, basketball, volleyball, tennis, and golf would be transferred to La Crescent-Hokah Community Education. It was the consensus of the Park & Recreation Commission to recommend approval of the plan to transfer the responsibility for recreation programming to La Crescent Youth Ball and La Crescent-Hokah Community Education.
3. La Crescent-Hokah Community Education Director Beth Theede was in attendance at the meeting to review with the Commission a request by Community Education to develop a pickleball program that would utilize the pickleball courts at Wieser Park for a portion of the programming. It was the consensus of the Commission that Community Education proceed with their plans to develop a pickleball program that utilizes the pickleball courts at Wieser Park for a portion of the programming.
4. Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson was in attendance at the meeting to review the \$166,116 Outdoor Recreation Grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for improvements at Wieser Park. This item was informational, and did not require action by the Commission.
5. Jason Ludwigson reviewed with the Commission a \$5,000 SHIP grant that the City received from Houston County Public Health for new park entrance signs. Design alternatives for new park entrance signs will be presented at a future Commission meeting.

6. Jason Ludwigson reviewed the components of the public education and outreach that the City will be undertaking in advance of implementing the Conservation Partners Legacy Expedited Grant Application for mowing, treating, and then re-planting a portion of the Stoney Point property with hard wood trees and the inter-seeding planned for the Horse Track Meadows property.
7. An update was provided at the meeting on the minor modifications that were made to the ADA Facility Audit of Parks and Recreation Facilities for the City of La Crescent. It was the consensus of the Commission to recommend that the City Council adopt the ADA Facility Audit of Parks and Recreation Facilities for the City of La Crescent.
8. It was agreed that the next Park & Recreation Commission meeting would be September 16th, 2024, and that the topic for the meeting would be a review of the Root River State Trail Extension Plan and the coordination and on-going planning activities related to the future connection to the existing State trail.
9. The Commission reviewed a request from the local soccer organization to display a banner at Old Hickory Park that recognized program sponsors. It was the consensus of the Commission that the request be denied.
10. Public Works Director Tyler Benish provided the Commission with an update on the Blue Lake Canoe/Kayak access project and the dog park project.
11. Commission members provided brief updates to the Commission on a variety of past and future community improvements projects and events.
12. There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:25 pm.