

**REGULAR MEETING
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
City of Oakdale
March 16, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Oakdale Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, via Zoom. Zoom is an online platform that allows persons to “attend” the meeting via video or telephone. The meeting was called to order by Chair Lockhart at 7 PM.

CALL OF ROLL

On a call of roll, the following were present:

Chair: Paul Lockhart
Vice Chair: Jenny Cook

Commissioners: Jan Cunningham
Glen Giacoletto
Mark Giannini
Freddie Jiles
Steve Meyer

Also Present: Jake Ingebrigtsen, City Council
Jeff Koesling, Parks Superintendent
Julie Williams, Recreation Superintendent
Eric Peterson, Oakdale Athletic Association (OAA) Fields Director

Quorum Present: YES NO

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting Minutes, February 16, 2021

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER CUNNINGHAM, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GIACOLETTO TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 2021 AS PRESENTED.

7 AYES 0 NAYS

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE – Jake Ingebrigtsen

Walton Shelter Reroofing Project – Bids came in \$20,000 under budget for the three shelter roofs at Walton that were budgeted at \$90,000. The Council will determine how the remaining \$20,000 will be spent.

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Parks Superintendent Koesling discussed potential projects that could make use of the \$20,000. Guthrie Park has a shelter roof slated for next year, a basketball court is in need of resurfacing at Guthrie Park, or the Oakdale Nature Preserve tennis court is in need of repair. Of the projects, he considers the tennis court a priority because the new crack that formed over the winter makes the court unusable. The shelter roof can wait until next year. He will get quotes for all three projects.

Titan Park – Chair Lockhart asked if the \$75,000 that Titan Park sold for was going to be put back into the Parks and Recreation Budget. He considered adding ADA swings at other parks, like what was added at Tilsen Park, especially if there is only until the end of the year to spend the money.

Councilmember Ingebrigtsen informed that the Council was unanimous to keep the \$75,000 in the Parks Budget. However, Councilmember Zabel informed that the use of the money is not written in stone until the audit is complete.

Summerfest – Councilmember Ingebrigtsen replied to Commissioner Cunningham that Summerfest will take place in some form, but likely different than in the past. The event schedule may be changed to Friday through Sunday. Decisions will be made using the community survey. The survey found the carnival to be not as popular as thought. The Council hasn't touched on the details of what activities will be included but there should be more details in the next couple months.

Parks Superintendent Koesling added that the Summerfest Committee will be meeting tomorrow, followed by the Council Workshop discussing Summerfest on the agenda on March 23.

Recreation Superintendent Williams replied to Commissioner Cunningham that Oakdale Recreation's Wednesday night Summer Concert Series will be taking place this summer.

DONATIONS POLICY UPDATE DISCUSSION – Paul Lockhart

Chair Lockhart reviewed that the Council is updating their policy on donations. The Council is seeking comments on the suggested changes.

Commissioner Giacoletto spoke regarding item 2.4 Standards of Donations. Of the options suggested, he preferred option two. The original is confusing when it refers to city values. Are city values defined? The second option distinctly says what needs to be said.

Chair Lockhart agreed with Commissioner Giacoletto. The verbiage in option two will make it easier for the City to make monetary decisions without going through hoops to decide what they need to do with a donation.

Vice Chair Cook also agreed with Commissioner Giacoletto. The issue with the city values language is that city values may change in 50 years. Who sets the values and what the values are would need to be determined under this language. The more broad a policy is, the better.

Chair Lockhart agreed with the proposed changes on memorials; the City should have sole proprietorship on where memorials go. He concluded that the Parks and Recreation Commission agreed with the Council's proposed policy changes.

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Parks Superintendent Koesling informed that item 2.4 will be drafted at the staff level and returned to Council for finalization. The Council discussed donations at the workshop two weeks ago, and sought the input of the Parks and Recreation Commission, and any questions on the proposed policy.

Vice Chair Cook noted a spelling error in item 5.2 “he memorial project.” She asked what will be done with the Lions Gardens relating to the policy change.

Mr. Koesling replied that the discussion has been to have forestry clean up the areas in a month or so to determine what native species to keep and what to remove. Then a decision can be made to whether to continue the program.

Chair Lockhart noted no further comments from the commission.

PARKS UPDATE – Jeff Koesling

Changing Seasons – With the great weather, staff cleaned up the courts and put out nets. Then it snowed again during a normal Minnesota March. When the grounds dry up, work will begin on fields. The equipment being used is between seasons and being switched over for the next season.

Part Time Summer Staff – The City is seeking to hire seasonal staff ages 18+ for open parks positions.

OAA Field Schedule – Chair Lockhart informed Mr. Koesling that the Oakdale Athletic Association will plan to run as normal unless the Governor makes changes.

Lines on Basketball Courts – Vice Chair Cook asked if lines can be painted on the basketball courts.

Mr. Koesling replied that adding lines to the basketball courts is one of Park’s priorities. The project was discussed with Director Bachmeier today. There were calls all last summer. The business that lines the tennis courts used to maintain the basketball courts. The business owner moved to Florida. We try to get him to do the lines. All the basketball courts’ lines are in horrible condition; some can’t be seen. He hopes to get the project done, even if it is done in house. The City has the machine to make lines, they just need to be laid out correctly.

Skate Park Fencing – Vice Chair Cook suggested removing fencing from the skate park. The junior Oakdale citizen that told Vice Chair Cook of the basketball lines and skate park recommendations was invited by Vice Chair Cook to attend a future commission meeting.

Mr. Koesling griped that the daily eyesore of accumulating trash and debris at the skate park would blow to other park areas if the fences were removed.

RECREATION UPDATE – Julie Williams

Artist of the Month – Pieces by Artist Bethany Finnern and Poet Celinda Olive are on display this March at the Discovery Center. Stop by the Indoor Market on Saturday for the interesting show in the gallery.

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Indoor Market – Five of the scheduled markets ran this year. The markets were modified to include a cap on vendors and customers, extra tables to buffer vendors and customers, social distancing measures, hand sanitizing stations, one way traffic, and hourly sanitizing of the building. Market Coordinator Nathan Timmons did a really good job making the market safe following Covid-19 guidelines. A Facebook commenter shared that the market experience made everyone feel safe.

Egg Hunt – Details are being finalized on the annual egg hunt taking place April 3 from 9 AM to 12 PM. The outdoor event will have limited participants and staggered 30 minute timeslots. Kids find eggs along the trail and stop at stations along the route.

Art Fair – Stop by to support local art on Saturday, March 27 from 10 AM to 3 PM. 13 artists will be selling at the Discovery Center.

Snow Sculpture Contest – Seven entries were received for the “Everyday Heroes” themed contest. Submissions must be received by March 31. The winner will receive a \$100 gift card and be contacted April 1.

Youth Summer Programs – The early summer newsletter will be online and in house in early April. Early summer registration will begin April 29. Planning is underway.

Snowshoe Rentals – 100 snowshoe rentals meant there were tons of people snowshoeing the Oakdale Nature Preserve this season.

Sundae Bingo – Online registration is \$5 for the Sunday, April 11 virtual bingo event. Prizes will be awarded to winners and picked up at the Discovery Center.

Story Stroll – Washington County Library has partnered with Oakdale Recreation for the Story Stroll program. Kids and parents love the stories. This March will feature “10 Rules of Being a Superhero” by Deb Pilutti.

Community Walk – There are no changes to the walk program that will resume on April 1. Dry trails are hoped for by the start of the program.

STORAGE FOR OAKDALE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION – Eric Peterson

OAA Fields Director Eric Peterson joined the call to seek permission for the OAA to purchase and place a small storage unit behind Walton fields 5 through 8. Portable pitching mounds would be stored and coaches given access.

Chair Lockhart informed that a plan for the storage unit, including dimensions and fasteners to attach the unit to the fence, could be presented to Parks Superintendent Koesling. Then approval could be sought from Council. He expanded that the need for this storage unit is because the existing storage shed should not have access given to everyone. A smaller unit is easier to pull equipment from, and could be up year round or seasonal. A taller unit than the existing is needed. Storage at Walton’s pinwheel fields may also be discussed.

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Commissioner Meyer noted the unit will need to have a lock because the image did not show where the lock was.

Mr. Koesling said a variance may be needed to place the unit. He reminded that it is mid-March and equipment can't be put out yet.

Chair Lockhart reminded Mr. Peterson to tell coaches to wait for Mr. Koesling's approval prior to using fields.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Wellness 50+ – Commissioner Cunningham updated on Wellness 50+ upcoming events. An all ages First Aid Hands-on CPR and AED Training will take place Thursday, September 23 from 6 to 7:30 PM. Oakdale Fire Paramedics will bring dummies and AED devices to practice and give detailed first aid tips. The free event has limited spaces available and reserving a spot is required.

She informed that the group is hoping to plan a bike maintenance workshop when the bike shop business slows down and they have time to schedule one.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER CUNNINGHAM, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GIACOLETTO TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION, DATED MARCH 16, 2021, AT 7:37 PM.

7 AYES 0 NAYS

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Linzmeyer