

CITY OF VERONA

MINUTES

PARK, RECREATION & FORESTRY COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2018

1. The meeting was called to order by acting chairperson Paul Schmidt at 7:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call: Present: Heather Reekie, Paul Schmidt, Mark Giesfeldt. Excused: Brad Stiner. Also present: Dave Walker, Parks Director; Casey Dudley, Recreation Director; Jeff Mikorski, City Administrator; Derek Johnson, 1226 Gateway Pass; Mora McDonald, Verona; Ron Henshue, Forward Development Group; Dennis Midthun, FDG, Dave Jenkins, FDG.
3. Moved by Reekie, seconded by Stiner, to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2017 meeting of the Park, Recreation, and Forestry Commission. Motion carried 3-0.
4. Dave Walker informed the Commission that Jon Turke had recently moved out of Verona and vacated the position of Park, Recreation, and Forestry Commission Chair. Mayor Hochkammer intended to appoint Derek Johnson, 1226 Gateway Pass, for the remainder of the term but would not officially announce it until the January 22nd Common Council meeting. Derek was at the meeting to introduce himself and looked forward to his appointment.
5. The Commission considered a vehicle damage claim from Bruce Campbell for alleged damage from a city lawnmower on November 6, 2017. Photos of the damage submitted showed dents, paint damage, and driver side mirror damage to a Chevrolet Pickup. Mr. Campbell also submitted a repair estimate and a police report obtained after the incident. Dave Walker reported that a mower was in the area on the day of the incident but the operator could not establish an exact time. He also did not recall hitting any rocks in the area and no one had stopped to report the incident to him. After reviewing the evidence, the Park Commission decided to deny the claim based on a lack of conclusive proof.
6. Moved by Reekie, seconded by Schmidt, not to approve a vehicle damage claim submitted by Bruce Campbell. Motion carried 3-0.
7. Three representatives from Forward Development Group were at the meeting to present the concept plan for a 200 acre mixed use development between Kettle Creek and CTY PD known as the North Neighborhood. The concept had several unique features including an extensive off road bike trail network, a conservancy area, and some enlarged cul-de-sac islands that were considered small pocket parks. The developers stated that two of their main goals were to make the development both aesthetically pleasing and pedestrian friendly.

Dave Walker informed the Commission that based upon the concept plan, the developer would be required to dedicate approximately 23 acres of parkland or pay a fee of nearly \$1.3 million dollars. As proposed the plan would provide enough acreage to satisfy about 90% of the land requirement and the balance in fees would be around \$100,000. The plan did have several areas shown as parkland that would also function as stormwater retention and Dave Walker pointed out that the pocket ‘cul-de-sac’ parks did have some merit but a similar proposal was rejected in the Cathedral Point subdivision.

The developers were at the meeting to gather feedback from the Commission as they continued to plan the development and to that end the Commissioners all liked the plan and commended the focus on trails and off street activity areas. The details of what would be public vs. private, who paid for the installation and maintenance of many proposed improvements, and what land credit would be given for joint park/stormwater areas were all key details that would have to be addressed but members were confident that something could be worked out.

8. The Commission considered pay scale revisions for seasonal park employees. In general the revisions included a \$.50 per hour increase that would put the lowest starting rate at \$9.50/hr and the top hourly rate at \$13.50/hr. Pay rates were last adjusted in 2016 and the proposed increases were included in the 2018 operating budget
9. Moved by Geisfeldt, seconded by Reekie, to approve 2018 seasonal pay scale revisions as proposed. Motion carried 5-0.
10. The Commission considered a Professional Service Agreement with MSA to update the 2016 Fireman’s Park Master Plan. After being unable to acquire an appropriate site for an aquatic center, the intent of the agreement is to make minor revisions to the Fireman’s Park Plan and begin implementing the plan with funds budgeted in 2017 for an aquatic feature.
11. Moved by Giesfeldt, seconded by Reekie, to approve a PSA with MSA Professional Services to update the 2016 Fireman’s Park Master Plan in an amount not to exceed \$5,000. Motion carried 3-0.
12. Moved by Reekie, seconded by Schmidt, to adjourn. Motion carried 3-0. Time 8:30 p.m.

Paul Schmidt
Acting Chairperson