

CITY OF VERONA

MINUTES **PARK, RECREATION & FORESTRY COMMISSION** **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021**

1. The meeting was called to order by chairperson Tyler Powers at 7:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call: Present: Tyler Powers, Heather Reekie, Paul Schmidt, Phil Hoechst. Excused: Mark Giesfeldt. Also present: Dave Walker, Parks Director; Casey Dudley, Recreation Director; Julie Haack, Verona Resident; Shawn Faulkner, Verona Resident.
3. Moved by Reekie, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2021 meeting of the Park, Recreation, and Forestry Commission. Motion carried 4-0.
4. The Commission considered three special event requests:
 - A. Julie Haack was at the meeting on behalf of Hometown Community Church to request use of the Harriet Park shelter for church service every Sunday from June through August. Since this is the most popular park shelter for summer rentals, the Commission felt that many other families and groups would be displaced if they were to reserve half of the weekend dates so other options were discussed. The Tollefson Park shelter is a comparable facility but much less reserved and if the church group was done with their service and cleaned up by noon it would give other groups the opportunity to use the shelter in the afternoon. This seemed like an acceptable compromise to both parties.
 - B. The high school cross country team requested the use of Harriet Park on May 16th for their year-end banquet since indoor school facilities remained closed to group events. They expected approximately 150 people for a cookout and awards ceremony. The Commission had no issues with the event but asked that Dane County COVID protocols were observed including masks and distancing if still in effect on the date of the event.
 - C. The Verona Area High School requested the use of Fireman's Park on May 28th for their senior class picnic. The annual event usually includes a trip to Green Lake for the day but that was no longer an option so they were looking for something more local. The Commission felt that the park was not large enough to handle the proposed attendance of 300 and with the beach and splashpad not yet open the only attractions at the park would be a soccer field and a basketball court. It was decided that Community and Festival Parks would be much larger with better facilities to accommodate the group so those would be available if the School chose to change their plans.
5. Moved by Powers, seconded by Schmidt, to approve three special event requests as discussed. Motion carried 4-0.
6. Moved by Reekie, seconded by Schmidt, to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0. Time: 7:55 p.m.

Tyler Powers
Chairperson