



MINUTES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

6 p.m.

REMOTE

Approved: 6-4-25

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 6:01 p.m.

Members present: Aaron Falotico, Bill Stonerod, Sharon Konopa, Anna Roller, Joyce Thompson Graham, Nick Anderson

Members absent: Jill Van Buren

Staff present: Kim Lyddane, Director; Rick Barnett, Parks & Facilities Maintenance Manager

Business from the Public

6:01 p.m.

1) Planet Walk- Doug Marteeny

Marteeny presented the concept of creating a scaled model of the solar system along a park trail that citizens could walk through and get educational information about the solar system. Marteeny is willing to do the research regarding costs, materials, and fundraising. Brief discussion followed.

Staff will work with Marteeny regarding possible locations and bring back to the commission at a future meeting.

2) Lock of Love - Lonnie Hollifield

Lonnie Hollifield updated the commission on the concept of creating a Lock of Love memorial structure in one of the city parks that was previously presented at the March 2025 meeting. The metal structure would allow people to place a lock on it in memory of someone they have lost. Brief discussion followed.

Staff will work with the Hollifields regarding location and bring back to the commission at a future meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6:33 p.m.

March 5, 2025

MOTION: Falotico moved to adopt the minutes. Thompson Graham seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6:34 p.m.

a. BN 25-27 Budget Update

Lyddane presented an overview of the requested BN 25-27 department budget. Brief discussion followed

Stoneroad noted there are several dead trees at Monteith Riverpark, and one along the Dave Clark Path around Ferry St and Broadalbin St that should be budgeted for. Lastly, there is some foxtail grass around the Albany Chamber of Commerce that is hazardous to animals. Brief discussion followed.

ACTION ITEMS

- b. None

REPORTS AND UPDATES

7:10 p.m.

a. Capital Projects

Lyddane reviewed the project report included in the agenda packet.

- Deerfield Park renovation project contractor was approved at the City Council March 26, 2025 meeting. Construction is projected to start at the beginning of June.
- Lehigh playground replacement is in process. The installation has been delayed by weather. Projected to reopen around the beginning of June.

b. Staff reports

Lyddane provided an update on recreation programs.

- Summer staff hiring is almost complete.
- Recruiting for a Recreation Assistant.
- Recruiting for a Recreation Manager.
- Looking into resources for maintenance on the Waverly Lake Duck.
- Registration for summer programs opens May 23, 2025.
- Performers for River Rhythms and Northwest Art & Air Festival have been announced.
- The Parks & Recreation Foundation held a fundraiser raising over \$2000.
- Adopt a Park program is going strong.
- Lyddane noted Give a Hoot, a new local non-profit, has been working in different areas of the city to help with weeding and general clean up. They have done an excellent job.

Barnett provided an update on Park Maintenance.

- Staff working on preparing the parks for summer usage.
- Small tree pruning is being completed by a seasonal staff member who is doing an excellent job.
- Waverly shrub bed has new irrigation, and new plants are going in.
- Lighting at the softball fields is being worked on as they are aging fixtures and starting to fail.
- Transient camp cleanup continues. Staff spent several days at Takena Landing recently clearing a large camp.

- Street improvements around Monteith River Park yielded some old railroad track materials that are currently being stored at the park maintenance shop for possible future use.

BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION

7:28 p.m.

Falotico noted the Robotics Team is working with staff on schedules to participate in some of the summer events. Brief discussion followed.

Konopa shared that a local business is interested in a fundraiser to help restore Waverly Lake Duck and highlighted the major maintenance items needed. Brief discussion followed.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Next meeting will be Wednesday, June 4, 2025. This meeting will be virtual.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Submitted by,

Debbie Little

Debbie Little

Administrative Services Coordinator

Reviewed by,

Kim Lyddane

Kim Lyddane

Parks & Recreation Director