

**CITY OF FRANKLIN**  
**PARKS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**  
**February 13, 2023**

Approved  
March 13, 2023

**CALL TO ORDER**

- I. Chair Michael Wrench called the February 13, 2023, Parks Commission meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. commencing in the Hearing room at Franklin City Hall at 9229 W. Loomis Road, Franklin, Wisconsin.

Present were Chair Michael Wrench, Vice Chair Karen Malecki, Commissioners Susan Lance, Mary Remington, Kristen Stanley and Alderwoman Shari Hanneman. Absent was Owen Proborsky. Also present were Associate Planner Marion Ecks, City Engineer Glen Morrow, Department of Public Works Kevin Schlueter and Dale Borchardt.

**CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD**

- II. The citizen comment period opened at 6:33 p.m. and closed at 6:33 p.m.. No citizens present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular meeting minutes of January 9, 2023.

- III. Alderwoman Hanneman moved and Commissioner Remington seconded to approve the minutes of the regular Parks Commission meeting of January 9, 2023. On voice vote, all present voted 'aye'. Motion carried (6-0-1).

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Update on Parks Maintenance

- IV.
  - A. Department of Public Works Dale Borchardt reported that the newly created ice rink has only been open for 10 days, thus far. This is due to mild winter weather. New shelves are being placed in the utility room at Franklin Woods. Kayla's Playground flooring – would like to keep flooring for another year. Some parts on the playground are wearing out and may need replacing. Discussion only, no action taken.

2022 and 2023 Budget. Parks Commission request for information on personnel additions, Capital Outlay Fund needs, Equipment Revolving Fund needs, Street Improvement Fund needs and Major Capital Expenditures to be made with borrowed funds.

- B. Associate Planner Ecks reported Franklin is currently between Director of Finance. Planner Ecks reviewed the 'statement of revenue and expenses' from the meeting packet. This is unaudited information and has not been closed out completely. Total expenditure was approximately \$2 million with most dollars going to the purchase of Southwest Park property. Alderwoman Hanneman requested a copy of the 2023 budget for the next parks meeting. Previous recommendation for resurfacing City courts at approximately \$200,000 per year. Pickleball facilities discussed.

This request does not have to go through Common Council. DPW Kevin Schlueter asked when courts are

resurfaced if they should be dual striped. Chair Wrench commented this would be on a case-by-case basis. Recreation department is considering expansion of their facilities for outdoor fields and activity space. This topic needs to be added to the March agenda. At that time the Commission can review the recreation plans and provide feedback to send back.

Alderwoman Hanneman moved and Commissioner Lance seconded a motion to direct staff to convert the three Lions Legend tennis courts to 12 permanent pickleball courts. At that time convert the permanent pickleball courts at Vernon Barg Park to tennis courts. On voice vote, all present voted 'aye'. Motion carried (6-0-1).

Park amenities donation policy and Parks marketing materials including maps, pamphlets, etc.

- C. The June City newsletter will contain a map of Franklin parks. Vice Chair Malecki asked for a status on past discussion regarding Buckthorn removal. The City is working on a Memorandum of Understanding and Waiver of Liability. Associate Planner Ecks will follow up. Friends of Franklin Parks was previously headed by Don Dorson. Alderwoman Hanneman stated this group ended several years ago and is no longer functioning. She also spoke with someone who was very active with the group and is willing to pass materials along to anyone that would like them. Friends of Franklin Parks had no affiliation with the City but rather was under a 501C status. Parks amenities donation policy will continue to go to Common Council. Discussion only, no action taken

Update on trail projects, including: South 116th Street, St. Martin of Tours, West Forest Home Avenue, West Church Street, State Highway 100, Ryan Creek and Cascade Creek Park.

- D. City Engineer Morrow provided an update. An open house was held at St. Martin of Tours to provide different routes and different options for the trail. Parishioners should present their ideas on trail location (should trail go through woods or not?) to the Priest. The 116<sup>th</sup> St. trail is pushed back until later in the year. There is a DNR permit needed. The DNR would like to wait until the growing season to evaluate. A bid may not be submitted until later this year. Discussion only, no action taken

Little league and/or adult recreation league reservations of sports facilities for baseball, pickleball and other groups.

- E. Associate Planner Ecks reported there are multiple requests for league reservations. Discussion included:
- 1) How many days per week fields can be reserved?
  - 2) Should fees be increased?
  - 3) Could reservations be submitted online or software purchased to enable reservations?
  - 4) Should there be one standard fee vs. having

different costs for weekends/weekdays?

It would be useful to have an online calendar. Currently there are 5 reservable baseball fields. Reservations are taken for dates beginning in April through July 31<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Stanley recommended making hourly time allotments at \$5/hour with a maximum of 2 hours a night, alternatively with a total of 4 hours maximum per week. Associate Planner Ecks will gather feedback from the Clerk's office.

**Pickleball**

Associate Planner Ecks brought forth discussion on how to manage requests to use Pickleball courts when there are currently being reserved by a morning group and by the Recreation departments evening group. The Recreation department charges for outdoor pickleball M-T-W-Th from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm and Saturday 9:00 am -11:30 am. A Franklin citizen has reserved the pickleball courts on M-W-F 8:00 am -12:00 pm. This is open to the public. A citizen has submitted a new request to reserve Vernon Barg Park pickleball courts from April to October on Thursdays from 5:00 pm -8:00 pm. This citizen will be present at the March meeting to discuss. Originally, the request was to reserve courts at Pleasant View. New pickleball courts will not be ready until sometime later in summer. Because of high demand of courts, the Commission should consider setting policy for pickleball court usage/reservations. Discussion only, no action taken

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

V.

A. None.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

VI. March 13, 2023

**ADJOURNMENT**

VI. Commissioner Remington moved and Alderwoman Hanneman seconded to adjourn the meeting of February 13, 2023, at 7:55 pm. On voice vote, all present voted 'aye'. Motion carried (6-0-1)