

**CITY OF FRANKLIN
PARKS COMMISSION
SPECIAL PARKS TOUR MEETING
MINUTES
October 8, 2016**

Approved
November 14, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

- I. Chairman Dave Pautz called the October 8, 2016 Special Parks Tour meeting of the Parks Commission to order at 9:10 a.m. at the pavilion in Franklin Woods Nature Center, 3723 W. Puetz Road, Franklin, Wisconsin.

Present were Chairman Pautz, Alderperson Susanne Mayer, Commissioners Bartoszek, Remington, Johnson. Commissioner Megna joined the tour at Ernie Lake Trail. Excused was Commissioner Nickerson. Superintendent, Jerry Schaefer and Dale Borchardt of Public Works were also present.

CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD

- II. The citizen comment period was opened at 9:11 a.m. and closed at 9:20 a.m. Several comments were made by a citizen concerning the operations, signage and equipment at Kayla's Playground. Additional comments were made regarding the activities and operation of the Franklin Woods Nature Center.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2016.

- III.
 - A. Commissioner Johnson moved and Commissioner Remington seconded approval of the minutes for the meeting held September 12, 2016 as presented. On voice vote, all voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Parks maintenance report.

- IV.
 - A. Superintendent Schaefer updated the Commission on general repairs, maintenance and improvements made to the parks since the last meeting. Pavilion lights and outlets will only be on after dark if there is a permit. No motions made. Discussion only.

NEW BUSINESS

Request by Shelly Runte/Kayla's Krew in collaboration with the City of Franklin, for use of the Franklin Woods Nature Center Special Park Pavilion, located at 3723 West Puetz Road, and a Private Event Tent/Amusements Installation Request for a 20 foot by 30 foot tent, for Kayla's Playground Volunteer Reunion on Sunday, October 9, 2016, at Franklin Woods

- V.
 - A. Commissioner Bartoszek moved and Commissioner Johnson seconded the approval of a request by Shelly Runte/Kayla's Krew in collaboration with the City of Franklin for use of the Franklin Woods Nature Center Pavilion and installation of a 20 x 30 foot tent in connection with Kayla's Playground Volunteer Reunion to be held Sunday, October 9, 2016 from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. On voice vote, Commissioners Remington, Pautz, Bartoszek and Johnson voted 'aye'. Alderperson Mayer voted 'no'. Motion carried (4-1-1).

Nature Center, from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

PARK TOURS

Tour and inspection of amenities at Franklin Woods Nature Center / Kayla’s Playground located at 3723 W. Puetz Road.

VI. Specific comments regarding individual park locations are listed below:

- A.**
1. There was discussion about once again paving the path through the woods. A paved path would:
 - a. Increase accessibility to this natural resource for people in wheel chairs.
 - b. Allow for maintenance and plowing in the winter.
 - c. Help to preserve and protect the woods by encouraging foot traffic to remain on the path rather than walking anywhere and everywhere in the woods.
 2. The new sign at Kayla’s Playground created by students at MSOE was viewed.

Tour and discussion of the proposed River Park pedestrian bridge from the City’s 20-foot Pedestrian Access and Bicycle Path Easement at approximately 5473 West River Park Court.

- B.**
1. Reviewed the location for the proposed foot bridge over Cascade Creek to allow improved pedestrian access to the high school campus.
 - a. One neighbor expressed concern that installing the bridge would lead to increased activity by younger people congregating in the area of the cul-de-sac in River Park.

Tour and discussion of improvements at Pleasant View Park, 4620 West Evergreen Street

- C.**
1. Inspected the newly painted pickle ball courts.
 2. Discussed the need for a pavilion and additional improvements.
 3. Jerry Schaefer indicated that representatives of the Land Conservancy (MMSD) had walked and inspected the land they had donated to the City. The land was donated with specific use easements and they wanted to ensure these were being adhered to. Specific comments included:
 - a. The land should primarily be kept as a prairie. Remove any invasive buckthorn and some poplar species. Other existing hardwood trees could remain.
 - b. The Land Conservancy personnel noted that some neighboring residential properties were encroaching on conservancy land. Any encroaching structures would have to be removed and the land allowed to return to its native state. The Land Conservancy will provide delineations of their property for the City to use regarding this remediation.
 - c. It was noted that cut paths in the grass have

been added to the west of the parking lot. Land Conservancy personnel will provide the City with written guidance regarding the current and future use of existing grass pathways cut on the land they had donated.

Tour and discussion of a planned public park site designated as Woodview Neighborhood Park (PN3) from the West Hilltop Lane right-of-way at approximately 8401 West Hilltop Lane.

- D.**
 - 1. The site of the proposed Woodview Neighborhood Park was inspected.
 - a. There is a considerable wetland area at the entrance to the parcel off of West Hilltop Lane that may limit appropriate access to the site. The current access path is very narrow and surrounded by wetlands on both sides.
 - b. The wetland also will reduce the overall utilization potential for the site.

Tour and discussion of improvements at Ernie Lake Trail located at 8000 South Chapel Hill Drive.

- E.**
 - 1. Inspected the condition of the exercise equipment installed along the path in 2015.
 - 2. Jerry Schaefer discussed the installation and potential location of a board walk type of bridge over the waterway that feeds into Lake Ernie. Cost estimates for the bridge have been obtained and are very reasonable.

Tour and inspection of Ken Windl Park and The Franklin Bike & Hike Trail located at 11615 West Rawson Avenue.

- F.**
 - 1. Inspected the pickle court striping that had been added to the tennis courts.
 - 2. Inspected the interior condition of the pavilion.

Potential future land acquisition for public park purposes

- G.** No additional plans for potential future park acquisitions were discussed at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

- VII.** Commissioner Megna moved and Commissioner Bartoszek seconded to adjourn the Special Parks Commission meeting of October 08, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. All voted 'aye', motion carried.