

City of Franklin
Parks Commission Meeting
May 13, 2024
Minutes

Approved
June 10, 2024

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Michael Wrench called the May 13, 2024, Parks Commission meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. commencing in the Common Council Chambers at Franklin City Hall at 9229 W. Loomis Road, Franklin, Wisconsin.

Present was Chair Michael Wrench, Vice Chair Karen Malecki, Alderwoman Courtney Day, Commissioners Mary Remington, Kristen Stanley, Cathrine Kosler, and Susan Lance. Also present were Principal Planner Marion Ecks, Health Department Lauren Gottlieb and Ellen Henry, Department of Public Works Kevin Schlueter and Dale Borchardt and non-voting member Ex-Officio Leah Voss. Excused was non-voting member Ex-Officio Michelle Runte.

II. Citizen Comment Period. The citizen comment period opened at 6:31 pm and closed at 6:31 pm. One citizen present. No comments.

III. Approval of Minutes – Regular meeting of April 8, 2024

Commissioner Remington moved and Commissioner Stanley seconded to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2024 meeting. On voice vote, all voted ‘aye’; motion carried (7-0-0).

IV. Unfinished Business

a. Update on parks maintenance.

Department of Public Works Borchardt reported staff has been cutting grass in the parks, wind screens are up on Pickleball courts, dog bubbler at Kayla’s Playground has been turned on, several swings have been replaced, pressure washing surfaces as needed and baseball fields are being dragged. Pavilion rentals are increasing. There have been several ‘washouts’ on the trails due to recent storm damage. A group of women continue to leave messes at the parks. Pleasant View and Vernon Barg have seen lots of Pickleball players. A stone path was added near the historical society building at Lions Legend Park. Some of the playground slides are showing wear and tear. They have been turned upside down and they look new. Regarding the new Pickleball courts currently under construction near the Library, a ‘proof roll’ test failed and will have to be re-tested. Once asphalted the courts must set for one month before painting. Discussion only, no action taken.

b. Park Facilities Reservation and Permitting Policies. Discussion of reservation policies for league sports and other groups, fees, rules, and policies for parks.

i. Pickleball Facility Rental and Reservation policy – Rental fees

- Principal Planner Ecks reported new quotes have been solicited for reservation software. Discussion only, no action taken.
- A baseline will be given in the 2025 budget along with a possible new hire position. Discussion only, no action taken.

ii. Park Rules – no update

c. 2024 Budget. Parks Commission requests for information on park finances.

i. Budget Request for Personnel. Commission proposal to request a new DPW position to coordinate park permitting and other functions.

- Principal Planner Ecks reported the addition of a new personnel position is tied to the software request. A meeting will be held the week of May 20, 2024. This topic should be brought back to the June Parks Commission meeting. Discussion only, no action taken.

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

Vice Chair Malecki provided an update. She attended another Tourism Commission meeting and confirmed that funds are approved for printing park materials and will take to a printer. Vice-Chair Malecki will coordinate with the City of Franklin newsletter. The Health department can also use the proposed map in their health initiatives. The ROC would like to put a copy of the map on their website. It was suggested they link to Franklin's website so updates would be needed in only one place. Discussion only, no action taken.

V. New Business

a. Request by Baird Public Finance Team. Request by Todd Hajewski on behalf of the Baird Public Finance Team. To Reserve four pickleball courts at Pleasant View Park at 4620 W. Evergreen Street from 4:00 to 8:00pm on Thursday, June 6th for a private party.

Principal Planner Ecks was contacted regarding this request. It is affiliated with a pavilion rental and a corporate party.

Commissioner Lance moved and Commissioner Remington seconded to approve the request. On voice vote, 6 voted 'aye' and 1 voted 'nay', motion carried (6-1-0).

b. Aurora Trail Proposal. Discussion of proposed trail at 9200 W. Loomis Rd to connect with future "Watertower" park at 8120 S. Lovers Lane Rd.

A handout was included in the meeting packet. Impact fees can be used for this trail. It was asked if emergency vehicles would have access to the trail. This topic should be added to next month's agenda for further discussion. Discussion only, no action taken.

c. Health Department Programming Updates. Update from Public Health Specialist Ellen Henry on Health Department initiatives relating to City Parks.

Health Department Gottlieb and Henry presented information on a community health assessment that was done 3 years ago. More citizens are being surveyed. The Health department teamed up with a Milwaukee Public Health student and a Medical College of Wisconsin student to analyze the results. Parks and trails in the city are a great valued resource. A 'Parks Playground Passport' is an initiative to encourage physical activity. Once you visit 7 parks in the city there will be a raffle for a prize. Hopeful to start this initiative in June, 2024. There is also a Wisconsin Cancer Collaborative opportunity to promote no smoking at the playgrounds. Language could be added to park rules or yard signs could be placed. Discussion only, no action taken.

d. Kayla's Playground Saputo Legacy Donation. Discussion of funding for partnership with the park, proposed signage.

Alderwoman Day met with City Engineer Morrow and Ex-Officio Runte. Saputo is a cheese manufacturer located in Franklin who plans to donate \$50,000 for Kayla's flooring. An application has been submitted. The City Attorney is reviewing information and will take to Common Council. Saputo would like recognition for the donation. It was suggested to place a 'sustainers' board at the playground and advertise in the smaller newspaper that comes with the Milwaukee Journal and the Franklin newsletter. Discussion only, no action taken.

- e. **Request by Resident Karen Grishaber.** Discussion of tennis and pickleball court availability and information about how decision on City Park facilities are made.

Citizen Karen Grishaber was present at the meeting and discussed her concerns. She would like to see the Pickleball courts at Vernon Barg converted back to tennis courts and commented this is a central area where most courts are in outlying areas of the city. She would like to see information in the city newsletter when decisions are made on court conversions and suggested using Survey Monkey to obtain citizen opinions in the future. Pickleball demand is high. Vernon Barg courts will stay as is. When they are re-done a decision will be made on what will remain. The City of Franklin's CORP is due for an update soon and public opinion will be obtained. Karen Grishaber expressed that she could offer guidance on how to get public input. Will need clarification from City Engineer Morrow when courts will be re-done. This topic should be added to next month's agenda. Discussion only, no action taken.

- f. **Southeastern Wisconsin Association of Pickleball.** Use of Pleasant View Park by Southeastern Wisconsin Association of Pickleball for leagues without authorization.

There is a person who has been circulating information on playing pickleball on Facebook. Department of Public Works Borchardt has posted a pickleball schedule at impacted parks. No complaints have been received at this time. Further discussion may be needed. Discussion only, no action taken.

- V. **Adjournment.** Commissioner Stanley moved and Commissioner Remington seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m.. On voice vote, all voted 'aye'; motion carried (7-0-0).