

Village of Cottage Grove

PARKS, RECREATION and FORESTRY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes for Thursday, June 24, 2021

1. **Call to order virtual Zoom meeting.** The meeting was called to order by Heidi Murphy at 5:00 pm.
2. **Roll call and confirm that the meeting was properly posted.**

It was determined that a quorum was present, and that the agenda had been properly posted. Committee members present for the meeting were Heidi Murphy (chair), Penny Aguilera, Jay Kiefer and Kevin Laufenberg. Amy Brice arrived at 5:31 pm. Staff present were Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director Sean Brusegar and Utility Clerk Kristen Krause.
3. **Public appearance: Public's opportunity to speak about any subject that is not a specific agenda item.**

None.
4. **Discuss updating the forestry ordinance.**

Updating the forestry ordinance stems from recommendations that were made during the recent tree inventory. Brusegar and Village Forester James Rothman went over the proposed changes in depth and agree with the recommendations. Committee members also agreed with the proposed changes. After highlighting the updates, Brusegar explained that the updated ordinance would still need to go before the Ordinance Review Committee for consideration and possibly a public hearing. Brusegar will check with Village Planner Erin Ruth and report back to the committee. **Motion** by Murphy, seconded by Aguilera, to move forward with the proposed updated forestry ordinance language and to advance the ordinance to other committees as needed. Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote of 4-0-0, Brice was not in attendance for this vote.
5. **Discuss and consider allowing dogs in parks on walking/bike paths.**

Murphy has heard from residents that are interested in walking their dogs in and around Village parks on the walking and bike paths. Brusegar explained that dogs are not currently allowed in any Village parks and that it is actually a Village ordinance. He recently forwarded the ordinance to the Police Department and asked that they educate people that they see bringing dogs into the parks, rather than issue them a ticket. Discussion was had about possibly allowing dogs on paths in the parks, but the committee ultimately decided that it was best to leave the ordinance as is and inform residents that there is a proposed dog park in the works behind the Continental development on CTH BB across from Village Hall. **Motion** by Kiefer, seconded by Laufenberg, to table this agenda item. Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote of 4-0-0. Brice was not in attendance for this vote.
6. **Update on Continental Properties plans.**

Murphy reported that the developer's agreement is in the works. Brusegar explained that the only thing missing in the updated plans was lighting for the parking lot to the dog park.

Murphy questioned if the committee will be able to name the dog park, to which Brusegar replied possibly. Brusegar will continue to inform the committee on any updates to this plan. The opening of the dog park is still slated for 2023.

7. Westlawn 1-acre Red Hawk Park playground update.

Brusegar reported that the playground equipment is scheduled to be installed the end of July. Concrete work can be completed earlier, with just a few squares left unfinished until after the playground is installed.

8. Update on the grand opening for the Bakken Park Shelter and splash pad.

Brusegar thanked everyone for helping make the grand opening a success. MSA and CRS took some great aerial shots of the event.

With the recent warm weather, the splash pad has been packed for the last couple of weeks. Concessions have done well in the evenings during the Miracle League games, but a little less during regular daytime hours. A sound system will be installed tomorrow and will provide background music to the splash pad area and shelter. The PA system included will allow for staff to advertise concessions and warn park attendees of incoming inclement weather.

9. Director's Report.

In Recreation, Coach-Pitch, T-ball, softball and baseball are all and running. A few rainouts have been navigated well by Program Coordinator Sam Frederickson. Tennis also began this week and instructors this year are provided by Premier Tennis out of Janesville. Playground recently began but had to be shut down when two participants tested positive for Covid-19. Camp will resume on June 30. Upcoming programs include ultimate frisbee in August, Battledarts in August and another Babysitting class was added in July due to popularity of the program. Other ideas being looked at are a barn quilt painting and the continuation of the Ghostly Grove Tour (and making it bigger and better this year). Staff are also researching other possible programs to offer in the future. Recreation Supervisor Trista Taylor is working diligently on the Fall/Winter guide, all while experiencing all of our programs running for the first time since she started in the position.

In Parks, staff are working hard on all of the ball diamonds, painting shelters, aerating athletic fields and installing three of the four new Little Free Libraries (LFL). The final LFL will go in at Willow Run Park since there is not currently one there. Maintenance of the splash pad has added a fair amount of work for staff. Chlorine levels at the splash pad have also been tweaked a bit since the opening. The next Music in the Grove event is scheduled for July 8. All future Music in the Grove concerts will be held at Bakken Park since the first one there was very successful, with the added benefit of concessions and restrooms available for attendees.

10. Approve the minutes of the May 27, 2021 Parks, Recreation and Forestry Committee meeting.

Motion by Laufenberg, seconded by Aguilera, to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2021 meeting as presented. Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote of 5-0-0.

11. Future Agenda Items

- Update on Red Hawk Park playground equipment selections.
- Update on Continental Properties plans.
- Discuss Miracle League landscape plan.
- Discuss replacement/updates at Fireman's Park hamburger/concession stand.
- The next regular PRFC meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 5:00 pm and will be a virtual Zoom meeting.**

12. Adjournment.

Motion by Aguilera, seconded by Laufenberg, to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 pm. Motion carried with a voice vote of 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted by Kristen Krause, Utility Clerk.

Approved on: 7/22/21

These minutes represent the general subject matter discussed in this meeting but do not reflect a verbatim discussion of the subjects and conversations that took place.