

Village of Cottage Grove
PARKS, RECREATION and FORESTRY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes for Thursday, July 28, 2022

- 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, Amy Brice and Jay Kiefer. Kevin Laufenberg arrived later and left early. Staff present were Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director Sean Brusegar, Village Planner Erin Ruth and Utility Clerk Kristen Krause. Also present were Nick Hess and Mike Collom of EnTech Solutions.
- 3. Public appearance: Public's opportunity to speak about any subject that is not a specific agenda item.**

There were no public appearances.
- 4. Discuss and consider a solar EV charging station at Bakken Park.**

Mike Collom of EnTech Solutions presented information on solar EV charging stations and gave examples of some in the area. Collom explained that the Village would have the option to purchase the EV station or lease it. After some discussion, committee members were concerned with the price of the EV station and who would actually utilize it. At this time, committee members would prefer to look at EV charging stations in the future and focus on funding more immediate needs for Parks and Recreation. **Motion** by Kiefer, seconded by Aguilera, to table further discussion of this item until 2023 and to not include adding EV charging stations in the 2023 budget requests. Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote of 4-0-0.
- 5. Discuss and consider pollinator gardens in Village Parks.**

Nick Hess of the Public Works, Properties and Sustainability Committee was present to recommend adding pollinator gardens to the Village parks. As he explained, the pollinator gardens would include low maintenance, hardy perennial plants that could aid pollinators throughout the year. Committee members agreed to pursue placing pollinator gardens in the Village parks. It was also suggested that this could be a potential Eagle Scout project for the Boy Scouts, or possibly a project for other groups in the area. Brusegar will work with staff to identify areas in each park for potential placement of the gardens. **Motion** by Brice, seconded by Aguilera, to have Parks staff identify four (4) parks where pollinator gardens could be placed and to provide costs estimates for these gardens. Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote of 4-0-0.

6. Discuss Parks & Open Space Plan.

Ruth was present to go over the recent updates to the Parks and Open Space Plan. The most significant changes came in the form of additional charts and graphs that provided more data than the past plan. The charts included more population demographics and housing data. Ruth explained that this data could influence future park plans.

7. 2022 Parks and Recreation projects update.

Brusegar reported that not much has really happened yet on the current Parks and Recreation projects. Work may begin as early as next week on either Red Hawk or Community Park. All equipment for both parks has been ordered. The estimated installation date for the equipment will be mid-October. The skate park at Bakken Park recently received a change order and Brusegar will bring back more information as it becomes available. Murphy added that it is great time to complete the park projects as they can be wrapped in with other ongoing Village projects (i.e., road work, trail work, etc.), which ultimately saves money.

8. Director's Report.

In recreation news, the Fall/Winter Guide comes out on August 4. Summer programs are currently wrapping up for the season. Our CG 1 – 5th/6th grade baseball team recently took 2nd place in the Silver Bracket Championship Game held at Community Park. This upcoming Saturday (7/30), Program Coordinator Riley Berning and Recreation Supervisor Trista Taylor will be in Monona for the 3rd/4th grade Rookie Baseball Tournament. Next weekend, the Windmill Softball Tournament will be held. Playground Camp is winding down with a final field trip to the Madison Zoo on the last day of camp, August 5. Ultimate Frisbee Camp instructed by the Madison Radicals begins next week at Bakken Park. National Night Out will be held at GDS on Tuesday, August 2 from 5-7:30 pm. As summer programming ends, we look forward to the start of Flag Football in two weeks. Staff are also looking forward to utilizing the current cheer space for future programs. The cheer and tumbling program will be moving out of its current location (in the unit next to the Parks & Recreation office) on September 1.

In parks, staff recently removed the former ticket shed at Fireman's Park and have been working on restoring the grass. Staff have also been busy painting the storage shed along the 1st base side at Fireman's and the open-air shelter on the 3rd base side. At Community Park, the light poles were removed from the ice rink area to prepare for the new pickleball courts, maintenance was performed on the ballfield and some playground equipment was removed for safe keeping. At Northlawn Park, a new tennis backstop is being built for the tennis courts and should be installed very soon. Staff also recently cleaned up, trimmed and sprayed the area around the park & ride by the interstate.

9. Approve the minutes of the June 23, 2022, Parks, Recreation and Forestry Committee meeting.

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Brice, to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2022, meeting as presented. Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote of 4-0-0.

10. Future Agenda Items

- Discuss the places identified for pollinator gardens.
- Discuss and consider Parks & Open Space Plan.
- Update on Park Projects
- Discuss dog park.
- The next regular PRFC meeting is scheduled for **August 25, at 5:00 pm and will be a virtual Zoom meeting.**

11. Adjournment.

Motion by Brice, seconded by Kiefer, to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 pm. Motion carried with unanimous voice vote of 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted by Kristen Krause, Utility Clerk.

Approved on: 8/25/22

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.