

Village of Cottage Grove
PARKS, RECREATION and FORESTRY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes for Thursday, August 25, 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, Jay Kiefer and Kevin Laufenberg. Amy Brice was absent. Staff present were Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director Sean Brusegar, Village Planner Erin Ruth and Utility Clerk Kristen Krause.
- 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 Parks & Open Space Plan.**

Ruth explained that he took data from all agencies, and those specifically from communities under 20,000, from the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and compared it to the Village. The data comparison showed where the Village ranks in how we handle our parks and how we meet our goals. After analyzing the data, Ruth reported that the Village is in the middle of the road and is in-line with other similar communities. Committee members discussed the findings and made suggestions for additions to our agency including adding no-smoking in our parks, increasing staffing based on the increased need in park maintenance, and moving paths to maintenance. Ruth will incorporate the data and suggestions into the plan and noted that a final draft of the plan will go to the Village Board in February/March of 2023.
- 5. Discuss and consider pollinator garden locations in Village Parks.**

Brusegar connected with local Boy Scout Levi Wurgler, who is excited to make the first pollinator garden his Eagle Scout project. The location of the garden will be at Governor Taylor Park. Brusegar wanted to start with one garden as a trial. If all goes well, more pollinator gardens at other parks will be added. Ruth recommended putting a future garden in a more visible area such as Village Hall. Laufenberg also suggested having signage by the gardens to educate residents about them.
- 6. 2022 Parks and Recreation project updates.**

At Community Park, crews are laying electrical for the pickleball court lights, and the park trail has started to be dug. Blacktop for both the pickleball courts and park trail/path will be put down in the beginning of September and playground equipment will be installed in mid-October. Once the blacktop on the pickleball courts has cured, after 30 days, color can be added to the courts. Red Hawk Park is getting ready for the new equipment install in mid-October. Benches and pier will be installed in the Westlawn Outlots around mid-October as

well. The wheels parks at Bakken Park have been delayed due to a communication issue with the company that is slated to install them. After clearing up those issues, the company is planning to be on-site at Bakken Park starting in mid-September. A pre-construction meeting will be held on August 30 and substantial completion of the wheels park has been moved back to the end of May 2023.

7. Discuss and consider allowing Boy Scout Troop 145 to have a two-night campout at Fireman's Park on September 9 and September 10.

Motion by Laufenberg, seconded by Aguilera, to approve allowing the Boys Scouts to have a two-night campout at Fireman's Park on September 9 and September 10. Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote of 4-0-0.

8. Director's Report.

In recreation news, staff have been on vacation the last couple of weeks during the in-between seasons of rec programming. Program Coordinator, Riley Berning has been overseeing flag football coaches' meetings, setting up teams and getting practices organized. The first games will begin after Labor Day.

In parks, we are in the last days of running the splash pad for the season. So far, we have not incurred any major problems with splash pad, just a few minor issues early in the season. With the rain and cooler temperatures this year, our visual numbers are down a bit at the splash pad. Also, with the rain occurring on a regular basis, parks staff have had to mow every week this summer, which is unusual. The new irrigation system at the Fireman's Park ball diamond will be operational in mid-September, although we probably will not use it until next spring 2023.

9. Approve the minutes of the July 28, 2022, Parks, Recreation and Forestry Committee meeting.

Motion by Laufenberg, seconded by Aguilera, to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2022, meeting as presented. Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote of 4-0-0.

10. Future Agenda Items

- Update on pollinator gardens.
- Update on Parks & Open Space Plan.
- Update on 2022 Park Projects.
- Discuss 2023 budget.
- The next regular PRFC meeting is scheduled for **September 29, at 5:00 pm and will be a virtual Zoom meeting.**

11. Adjournment.

Motion by Kiefer, seconded by Laufenberg, to adjourn the meeting at 5:47 pm. Motion carried with unanimous voice vote of 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted by Kristen Krause, Utility Clerk.

Approved on: 9/29/22

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.