



PARKS DEPARTMENT
Brent De Ruyter, Parks Director
(360) 354 - 6717

PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA January 16, 2024

1. **ROLL CALL:**

Members Present: Mayor; Scott Korthuis, Councilors; Nick Laninga and Gary Vis

Staff Present: City Administrator; John Williams, Parks Director; Brent DeRuyter, and Parks Admin. Assistant; Nancy Norris

Guest: Abner and Abbey Drury-Perez Berthusen Park House Tenants

2. **ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Approval of Parks Committee Minutes- November 20, 2023,**

Vis motioned to approve the November 20, 2023, minutes, Laninga concurred Parks Committee approved the motion to approve the Parks Committee November 20, 2023, Minutes.

B. **Selection of Parks Committee Chair**

Councilor Vis agreed to serve as the Parks Committee Chair. Laninga supported this appointment.

3. **INFORMATION ITEMS:**

A. **Information on Benson Barn**

Document being drafted for posting publicly as a Parks building project.

B. **Updates on Parks and Trails projects**

Benson Park

Barn still being used for leftover bridge supplies, parks equipment, and windmill completion this winter. It was recommended to add to the project list stabilizing and straightening the south wall of the barn, possibly converting it to look like the north side wall somehow sooner than later this year.

Schoolyard

Finalizing architectural plans to be approved for a pavilion and possible entryway. More money has been given and more coming from anonymous community members for the development of this park.

Trails

Depot-8th St. construction is still moving along, and Phase 1 will be complete in February. Work on the boardwalk is over the halfway point.

-VGL Agreement to be finalized by January 18th by all parties.



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Parks Department Shop Addition Project

Additional contractors have been contacted and waiting for responses/interest.

C. Civic Rec

Website is up and will be used by both sports organizations and community members seeking facility rentals after final fee schedule is approved...only \$5-\$10 increments in raised fees from our department.

The Parks Committee asked if each Council Committee will be reviewing the unified fee schedule each year and will it require council approval? City Administrator Williams said yes that would be the process.

Park staff are meeting with the sports organizations this evening (January 16, 2024) to go over reserving fields for their leagues and the new online system.

D. Updated Project List

The Parks Committee reviewed the January 2024 Park Project List.

E. Upcoming Advisory Committee Meeting Updates

- Berthusen Advisory Committee Meeting scheduled for January 31, 7:00PM
- Park and Trail Advisory Committee Meeting tentatively scheduled for January 22, 7:00PM

Minutes from both committees' last meetings attached to the packet per request. Laninga thanked Brent for the past Advisory minutes.

F. Staff response to Berthusen Park safety concerns

The staff has not heard from legal counsel regarding if the hours at Berthusen park can be different than what the ordinance says. Speaking with the Police Chief he denied the request to have the STARS volunteer officers or LPD drive through the park since it is not in their jurisdiction. The County deputies will do drive throughs on occasion but it's not high on their priority list unless they are called out to the park for an incident.

The Parks Committee agreed with Berthusen Park Advisory about having the park secured by staff at night and having more park staff present during the daytime hours.

4. ITEMS ADDED

A. Berthusen Park House Tenants Proposal

Berthusen Park house tenants Abbey and Abner Drury-Perez proposed the question if there could be an exception made to their lease that would allow them to have their parents and grandfather reside with them and their two young boys. The Drury-Perez' are working with an outreach team/ opportunity council program and their church as well. They stressed it would be in the best interest for all

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involved for their elders to live with them due to the language barriers, health needs, and financial support.

The Parks Committee directed staff to find out from the County and City Attorney if having 5 adults and 2 children under the age of 5 would be allowed to reside in a 2-bedroom 1 bath home and if there are any other factors involved, considering this is a home owned by the city inside a public park.

The Parks Committee asked staff to report back with their findings by the next Parks Committee Meeting on February 20, 2024.

The Parks Committee and Mayor encouraged the Drury-Perez' in the meantime to continue to work with the outreach programs for possible solutions for housing their elders.

Meeting Adjourned 5:03 PM.

NEXT MEETING- Tuesday, February 20, 2024