

RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

MAY 11, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Chairperson Deborah Born. Committee members present were Deborah Born, Jan Materni and Jonathan Smith.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 13, 2021 MEETING

Ms. Born said she would like the minutes to be amended to include that Will Harbauer is the Secretary of PRAC. The minutes of the April 13, 2021 meeting as amended were approved 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Smith said that he has been talking to the Administration regarding an unleashed dog area. He said they are looking for an area and are considering Orleans Park.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Born presented the results of observations made by Todd France, a PRAC member, about parking along the river. She said PRAC voted to recommend that the Orleans Park parking lot not be paved. Ms. Born said she would like this to be passed along to the Finance Committee. Ms. Materni said she appreciates Mr. France's efforts, but the results are not statistically valid as it was done in one day. She said that the parking lot is being paved because of zoning rules. Ms. Materni said that she does not support sending PRAC's recommendation on to the Finance Committee or City Council. Mr. Smith said that the discussion of paving the Orleans Park parking lot came up because of Rotary Park not being in compliance. He said he does not support not paving the parking lot. Ms. Born said that she is in agreement with PRAC that the parking lot should not be paved. She said there is flooding down there, and she thinks the recommendation should be passed along to the Finance Committee.

Ms. Born said that PRAC also voted and recommended that the restrooms at the parks be reopened. Ms. Born made a motion to recommend forwarding this issue to City Council. The motion died for lack of a second. Mr. Smith said that it is more of a Service Committee issue.

Ms. Born reported that PRAC also recommended that a natural walking path be put in around Three Meadows Pond. She added, however, that PRAC did not vote on this issue. Ms. Born asked her fellow committee members what they thought of the idea. Mr. Smith and Ms. Materni said that they are not opposed to more paths or making it more accessible. Mr. Smith said that there would have to be a conversation with the Administration about it because they would need some idea of the cost.

PRAC REPORT

Ms. Born reported that Jessica Kemp resigned from PRAC.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Materni questioned whether City Council should look at reducing the cost for a pool membership since the number of people allowed the season is reduced. Mr. Smith said he had a discussion with the Administration and the restrictions have changed and are not what they thought they were going to be. Ms. Born asked about keeping the pool open later in the season. Ms. Materni and Mr. Smith explained that the YMCA has issues with staffing lifeguards because college students go back to school.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Sutton
Recording Secretary

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.