**Minutes:**

**City of Bayfield**

**Parks & Recreation Committee**

**Dec. 7th, 2023 @ 8:00 a.m. via Go to Meeting and at Bayfield City Hall**

1. Call to Order: 8:00 am
2. Roll Call:
   * Members present: Ray, Carrier, Havlik (Pete, new member, welcome!), Rovi, Clark
   * Members Absent: N/A
   * Others Present: B. Bland, T. Kovachavich, D. Weeks, G. Hogan, Makayla Waggoner
   * Recreation & Fitness Resources: J. Kaiser
3. **Motion to** Approve Agenda: Ray/Rovi, motion carried
4. **Motion to** Approve Minutes\* from Oct. 5th: Rovi/Ray, motion carried
5. Public Input on Agenda Items: Noted below (permit application, Waggoner; winter walking, Bland)

Agenda

Permit Applications (if any): \*

Erickson/Waggoner Wedding – application is included in the meeting packet for 12/7; wedding is to be held in Memorial Park on the city side, 7/27/24, 8:00 am to 5:30pm

Motion to approve permit: Ray/Rovi, motion carried

Standard Update Reports:

1. Rec. Center Information Sharing (Jacob Kaiser)

* 24/7 access system is going well so far and rec center usage is up
* Registration for the 2024 Point to LaPointe swim is already full!
* The staff is working on setting up a “maker’s space” in the rec center community room

1. Playground Subcommittee Report (Vadnais/Hogan)

* The subcommittee report is included with the 12/7 meeting packet
* Grace highlighted the help volunteered by Daniel Yudchitz, an architect with a home in Bayfield; she mentioned that Daniel has a friend who is a structural engineer whom may be able to assist with the East Dock Park site evaluation
* The subcommittee plans to include solicitations for donations in this year’s city tax mailing

1. Budget/Finance Report (if any) \*

* It was noted that after a strong finish to the season, Dalrymple Campground receipts came in $7385.74 over the budget projection for the year
* A detailed list of all budget line items is included in the meeting packet; this is provided for committee member’s review prior to the January meeting

1. Round-robin reports from adopters & Public Works Director:
   * Big Ravine Preserve/Iron Bridge (Clark):
     + Emergency response signs are in place on posts throughout the trail system (installed by Carrier), these have coordinates for geolocation
     + Tom K. reports that the Bayfield Snowmobile Club has efforts underway to restore snowmobile access into the city; this will may involve areas adjacent to the Big Ravine trail; permission to use part of the Fierek property has already been secured. Carrier will reach out to Club for an update and information on their proposal.
     + Carrier reports a stand of buckthorn near the trailhead above the school; this will need to be removed; Carrier and Clark will move this forward.
   * Cooper Hill Park (Subcommittee):
     + P. Havlik will adopt this park
     + Grace asked about the memorial picnic table that was to be ordered for Cooper Hill; we learned that the table is in the city garage and will be assembled and installed in the spring; we still need to verify that the plaque is here.
   * Dalrymple Campground (Ray): campground closed; Ray says that he will walk through the park periodically to check on things
   * East Dock Park (Subcommittee): no update
   * Halvor Reiten Park (Rovi):
     + The willow tree has been removed and a maple sapling has been planted in its place; Laura says that she’s heard some sad comments from people who miss the old tree.
     + B. Bland reports that the Maritime Museum board would like to hire an expert to examine the old fishing boat at Halvor Reiten; this person will provide an expert opinion on what restoration efforts are needed; we can then move ahead with the preservation of this old beauty!
   * Waterfront Walk (Jake’s Park, Memorial Park Annex, Turning Point Fountain) (Rovi): all’s well and the gazebo rebuild is nearing completion
   * Washington Ave. Lake Access (Carrier): all’s well
   * Other
   * Bayfield Area Trails (BATs) Report (Clark):
     + Report from Carrier, who attended the Nov BATs meeting
     + BATs is ironing out their vision and mission statements and have agreed that their scope will encompass all of the Bayfield peninsula
     + After an excellent 2023 season of accomplishments, the group will be considering developing standards and procedures for trail maintenance and closures.

Old Business:

* + - * 1. 2024 Budget – the City Council has approved the Parks & Rec budget requests ($20,000 approved from General Fund savings)
        2. Sweeny Ave. Trail Loop Proposal
* Carrier and Clark flagged and mapped a proposed route for the trail; a copy of the map is included with the agenda packet
* Pete H. has engaged with Bayfield County to identify the ownership of parcels west of 13th St
* Carrier reports that the trail route is straightforward with no difficulties expected in building the trail, thus the work can be accomplished by volunteers (e.g. no need to hire professionals)
* Clark moved to approve the proposal and recommend it to the City Council for consideration and approval to construct the new segment; second by Ray; motion carried.

New Business:

* + - * 1. Winter Walking Activity in Pavilion
* Bill Bland submitted a memo to the committee (a copy is included in the agenda packet) which, in short, asked that the Bayfield Pavilion once again be opened periodically during the winter so that citizens may take some exercise there.
* The request generated a great deal of discussion, the key takeaways of which are:
  1. everyone present thought it was a good idea with positive outcomes for the community
  2. there are, however, costs involved to cover cleaning and snow removal; the pavilion is intended to generate revenue for the city, but it is already operating at a deficit – use of the building needs to be paid for
  3. any work done to keep the building open takes away from other city maintenance, further burdening Public Works
  4. because of the potential benefits to community members, particularly seniors, for exercise and socializing during the dark days of winter, the committee wishes to explore ways to move this idea forward
  5. Laura will investigate possibilities for inter-organizational cooperation with, for example, Core, the Chamber of Commerce and RFR. We may be able to jointly find enough money to open the building, pay for private snow removal, etc. Tom K. noted an organization to shepherd the whole thing should be considered, perhaps a volunteer organization (the “Bayfield Winter Walkers”?) to raise money and serve as a point of contact for the program.
  6. The discussion isn’t over!
     + - 1. Outdoor Recreation Plan – Review Update Process to occur in Jan/Feb 2024

Next Meeting: 8 am, January 5th, City Hall

Motion to adjourn: at 9:50 a.m. Rovi/Ray; motion carried