

Crosslake Park, Recreation, and Library Commission Minutes

Wednesday November 16, 2022

Crosslake Community Center 2:00pm

Present: Chair Joe Albrecht, Heather Jones, Ann Schrupp, Peter Graves, Council Liaison John Andrews, Parks and Recreation Director TJ Graumann, Parks and Recreation Manager Jane Monson

- I. Meeting was called to order at 2:00pm
- II. Approval of minutes  
**Motion to approve minutes of October 26, 2022 meeting as written**  
**Peter/Ann Favor: All Opposed: None**  
The commission took a moment to Thank Heather for taking over the task of writing the minutes for our meetings.
- III. Old Business
  - A) Survey – We discussed having an Open House to help pinpoint items of the most interest and have a discussion with the community about those items. We are probably looking at Spring/Summer of 2023 to hold the open house, there is not a huge rush as there are big capital items included that are likely years off. We would like to get the Hockey rink info narrowed down to include at the open house (more on that in item B). Survey results have been posted online and on Facebook. We discussed having the results available/posted at the community center and an ad in the Northland Press to highlight some of the top results.
  - B) Hockey Rink – The current condition for this winter is not great, it needs some repairs. It should be flooded sometime in December, weather dependent. Both the rink and the warming house need to be looked at as we move forward with plans for a new rink. The commission will go to the warming house after the meeting to assess the current state of things. The warming house does have smart locks so it can be unlocked and locked remotely to allow for it to be open longer hours. There has been discussion of using the pond for recreational skating, however the pond has been complained about a lot and we need to consider adding a recreational rink near the hockey rink as we move forward with plans. We would like to put together a “History of Hockey in Crosslake” for the open house and as a helpful tool as we move forward with the hockey rink plan. TJ met with a representative from the Hockey association. Take aways from that meeting, there is always a need for ice time; they feel this park/area needs ice for recreation and pickup games, but the hockey association would have use for it as well; rink requirements for the association would be a concrete base, permanent boards, and if you want to host exhibition games it would need player boxes and plexiglass (cuts down on windchill); a roof can be added at a later date; a chilling system is probably not worth the additional cost; and a Zamboni can be added at any time. The biggest point being that all we really need is a nice sheet of ice and a safe place to play! TJ would like to put together a committee to come up with plans, he would like representatives from the

Commission, PAL, and the hockey association. Heather, Peter, and Ann volunteered for this committee. The warming house was discussed again. We may need to bond and pass a referendum for the funding for this project, in which case a new warming house with year-round bathrooms and a concession stand that can be used year-round for multiple sports, in a central location, would help with gaining community support, versus trying to “fix up” the current building.

IV. New Business

- A) Meeting Dates for 2023 – meetings will remain the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month, except for November and December meetings on November 15 and December 20. All meetings at 2PM.

**Motion to accept the dates outlined in the handout.**

**Ann/Peter      Favor: All      Opposed: None**

V. Other Business

A) Staff Report

- i. City Council Directives – Council approved the Daggett Pine park dedication fees for \$1500. Council denied the bench request for the Hillcrest ROW, per the commission recommendation. There were some safety and security concerns from council regarding the new Pine River Park. Discussion was had and the plan for the park was approved. TJ is working with PAL on funding. TJ let us know that the Park Maintenance staff is currently fully staffed.
- ii. Youth Coordinator – There is a plan to hire a youth coordinator for the summer, this person would run summer camp, activities for kids and summer library program. It is a part time position that will be paid for by PAL.
- iii. Winter Rec Update – It needs to get colder! Grooming for ski trails will start once weather permits. Same for the sledding hill and ice rink. There was a question about bikes on the trails, it is not recommended but not restricted at this point. There are some erosion issues, so this will need to be looked at more for future use.

- B) Comments from commission – Jane was excited to announce that ECFE has officially started in Crosslake, there are currently 4 families, another session will begin in January. The Crosslake school kids are still coming in to use the library, and that is going well this year. It is Indigenous Peoples Month, library volunteers will be going to the school to do art projects with the kids, related to Indigenous People.

C) Pequot Lakes Community Education Update – Joell Tvedt from Pequot Lakes Community Education was present to update us. A facility study of the Pequot Lakes Schools was just completed. Top priorities will be brought to the School Board. The schools are growing, but the buildings are land locked which poses some issues for adding additional classrooms. There were 133 kids in the 2021 graduating class, This year has 103 kids in kindergarten, with open enrollment this is expected to grow by middle and high school. The Great Gatsby auditions are complete. The Princess Tea Party in Crosslake was a success, enrollment maxed out and there was a wait list. (Heather can vouch for the success and fun of this event). Joell inquired as to whether we have ever done a Park tour of Crosslake. The trail tour in the summer was mentioned. She also mentioned there may be options for a cooperative agreement with another city or school to “share” a Youth Coordinator.

VI. Open Forum –John is leaving council at the end of the year, this was his last meeting with us as council liaison. Thank you for your service to our Community, John!!  
Jane gave a recap of the Halloween party, it was fun for all, approximately 250 people attended. The lions eye test went well, and they appreciated the opportunity to run the tests.

We will adjourn to the warming house for a tour of the current facility.

VII. Adjourn at 2:48PM

**Motion to adjourn**

**Ann/Peter**

**Favor: All**

**Opposed: None**