

## MINUTES

City of Norwich, Parks Commission

January 23, 2019

**Present;** Chairman C. Sprague, Comm. K. Thompson, Comm. T. French, Comm. M. Genung, Comm. B. McCracken, Comm. S. Sutton, Comm. OJ Levesque

**Absent;** NA

**Also Present;** E. Pepe

The meeting was opened by Chairman C. Sprague at 7:00 pm. OJ Levesque introduced himself to the rest of the committee, it was his first meeting. He lives at 7 Sheldon St and is taking over for Tom Revoir. OJ will take over monitoring of Gordon Park.

Motion to approve minutes of November 28, 2018 was made by M. Genung and seconded by T. French, all Ayes approve as written.

**Visitors;** There were no visitors.

**Old Business;** Auburn Park – Chairman C. Sprague told us that Steve Natali, City Attorney, told him at the prior common council meeting that neither he or Patrick Flanagan (former attorney) had any transaction records regarding donation of property by George Carnrike to City. C. Sprague talked said he spoke to the Mayor about this who said she would look into what has been done.

**New Business;** Dog Park – The dog park discussions continued. Chairman C. Sprague attended the Common Council meeting on January 22 where the Common Council set a public hearing for the establishment of the dog park at Greenway Park and he filled the committee in on what was said. Refer to the minutes of the January 22 Common Council for what was said. In general, he talked about how there would be a trade-off if the dog park was located at Greenway because some of the equipment would be lost, but we could possibly use this opportunity to reconfigure the play equipment and possibly get some new equipment. Chairman C. Sprague said he would be attending the public hearing. We discussed who should provide the dog poop bags. E. Pepe said that the City could provide the bags. Comm. S. Sutton said that maybe a “Friends of the dog park” should be formed and they could provide the bags. Chairman C. Sprague stated he has been in discussions with Hannah Baker who was the person behind the idea for a dog park and who has been working on the design. Operating hours for the dog park were discussed and agreed it should be the same as for the park, dawn to dusk. . Chairman C. Sprague also mentioned a manhole at the SE corner of the park and wondered what it was for. E. Pepe stated the DPW will investigate.

Comm. OJ Levesque started a discussion about JAAG, Just about anything goes. He said he remembered it from when he was growing up in Norwich; they would have games and activities for youth. He said maybe it's something we can look into.

Skating Rink – It was suggested the hours should be posted on the door.

**Budget;** Equipment budget for 2019 is \$4,000

**Superintendents Report;** E. Pepe asked Chairman C. Sprague if his wife, J. Rebecca Hargrave, was in charge of the Arbor Day celebration. Chairman C. Sprague said yes. E. Pepe had no updates.

**Commissioner's Reports;** No updates

**Correspondence;** Jason Miller requested permission to use Weiler Park on February 16<sup>th</sup> for a bike race. A motion was made, seconded, and all approved. The concern over bathroom facilities being available was raised. Chairman C. Sprague said he would discuss with Jason.

The group called Reality Check requested permission to use the ice skating rink for a party the same day. A motion was made, seconded, and all approved.

**Adjournment;** Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm. Next meeting is February 28.