

MINUTES
City of Norwich, Parks Commission
January 27, 2025

Present: Chairperson C. Sprague, Comm. K. Thompson, Comm. M. Kirsch, Comm. D. Phelps, Comm. B. McCracken, Comm. T. French, Alderwoman N. Allaire

Absent: Comm. S. Lambert

Also Present: A. Testani, Dan Thompson

Correspondence: None

M. Kirsch made a motion to approve October's meeting minutes, seconded by D. Phelps. Approved by all.

Old Business:

MRP Grant application – C. Sprague provided an update on the grant application. Conceptual drawings are complete along with a cost estimate of the improvements. Neither were available to share with the Commission. A. Testani asked the group for letters of support to include with the application. A. Testani will provide examples of letters to the commission. A. Testani asked to have letters back by noon Friday. Deadline for submitting the application is February 9th. We will be submitting our application on February 2nd.

Crows in East Park – D. Phelps mentioned the issue with the crows in East Park. C. Sprague said that multiple methods were tried in the past with limited success. One problem with setting anything up is it just pushes the crows to other neighborhoods. A. Testani to ask BID and Friends of the Parks if they have tried any methods to scare off the crows.

Dog waste pick-up at Baker Dog Park – D. Phelps mentioned that the dog waste at Baker Dog Park is overflowing the bin. A. Testani will contact our DPW to see what the issue is with pick-up.

Adoption of Parks Master Plan – C. Sprague asked if the Council needs to adopt or approve the Parks Master Plan as the official plan for the city. A. Testani will check with Erik Scrivener on the process for a resolution to adopt the Parks Master Plan.

New Business:

Ice Rink – A. Testani informed the Commission that the ice rink at Weiler Park opened on 1/19. So far attendance has been heavy. There are plans to set up the portable rink South Broad St Park under the pavilion.

Fence at Kurt Beyer – The fence at Kurt Beyer was damaged during one of the storms in December. A tree from a neighboring yard fell on the fence. T. Miller has received a cost estimate of \$1,400 to repair the fence. The city is taking steps to notify the neighbor about the remaining dead trees along the fence line.

Gordon Park Fountain – We have been unsuccessful to locate the missing top of the fountain. E. Larsen received a quote to replace the top section for \$4,200 from Fine's Gallery. The City will incur the cost to replace the missing section with plans to install sometime in the spring.

Park Sidewalks – C. Sprague asked about the clearing of the sidewalks in the City's parks. The DPW clears all the park's sidewalks when time allows except for South Broad Street Park.

Chairman's Report:

Nothing to report.

Commissioner's Reports:

Nothing to report.

Budget: A. Testani presented the 2025 and 2026 budgets to the Commission. For 2025 the Parks Department ended the year \$17,023 below plan. The 2026 budget at \$143, 890 is 7% less than 2025's budget. We discussed the need for more money in future budgets for continued maintenance and improvements to our parks.

Next meeting: February 24th at 7:00 PM in the city offices.

Adjournment: The meeting ended at 8:05 PM.