

**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MINUTES FROM MEETING OF August 18, 2021**

The Marion County Parks & Recreation Advisory Council (PRAC) held a public meeting on August 18, 2021 at the Parks & Recreation office.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT**

Pat Gabriel, Chair  
Kat Kelley  
Brian Cretul

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT**

Jerry Furlong, Vice Chair

**STAFF PRESENT**

Jim Couillard, Director  
Kelsey Mears, Assistant Director  
Laura Cooper, Administrative Services Coordinator

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was officially called to order at 3:00 PM by Chair, Patricia Gabriel, followed by the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: Kat Kelley made a motion to accept the July 21, 2021 minutes as presented; Brian Cretul seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken by Laura Cooper.

**STAFF ITEMS**

- A. Parks Environmental Land Acquisition Plan
  1. Jim reviewed Resolution 03-R-180 that established the Parks and Recreation Advisory Council (PRAC) and the history of the previous resolutions and advisory councils leading up to PRAC.
  2. The Department has an extra \$1.3 million in revenues that will be used to acquire new park land. Jim explained that it is important to purchase the land now, but there needs to be a process and grading system in place. He added that his goal is to rewrite and modernize the Parks Environmental Land Acquisition Manual (PELAM).
  3. Jim then tasked PRAC with reading the first 20 pages of the original PELAM so that we can discuss potential revisions during the next meeting. Some of the first revisions will include a new outline, table of contents, etc.
  4. Jim then reviewed Section 2. Duties and Responsibilities of Resolution 03-R-180. Section 2.B. specifically states that the "Council may study and make recommendations concerning the development, operation, management, fee structure, control and maintenance of all parks." Jim stated that an excellent example of this is when Brian Cretul presented safety concerns about the netting a Wrigley Fields; that project is now out for bid.
  5. The Department is currently working with a land trust group to purchase about 10 acres of land to expand Moorhead boat ramp.

6. The updated manual will be used to show the Board of County Commissioners that the funds are being used appropriately by purchasing the right land.
7. Pat inquired about Independence Park. Jim provided that the County is working on swapping that land with the State for land at SW 49<sup>th</sup> Ave to make another trailhead park. Pat then provided the Council with a history of how Independence Park was originally acquired and the resulting issues with having no access to the land. Pat also added that the PELAM really just needs to be simplified.

**Old Business**

None.

**Council Items**

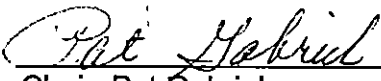
None.

**Closing Comments**

None.

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:40 PM

SIGNED   
Chair, Pat Gabriel

DATE: Sept 15, 2021

Minutes submitted by Laura Cooper