

AUGUST 30, 2016 YOUTH AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

5:30 p.m. Council Chamber. Members present: R. Moore, J. Pearson, M. Platteter. Others present: A. Christianson, K. Gorsegner, A. Kenyon, A. Lobermeier, D. Parker.

Call to Order:

Chair M. Platteter called the meeting to order.

Skate Park:

The meeting focused on what to do with the skate park, which has been closed for a few weeks as it has deteriorated to a condition that it isn't safe to use. Asst. DPW Parker has one quote from a vendor who doesn't believe it is worthwhile to try to repair the existing equipment. That vendor proposes to install all new equipment for from \$30,000 to \$100,000 depending on the number of pieces provided. During discussion that ensued the following were among comments made:

- The skate park has provided a positive outlet for some youth although usage has dropped off as its condition has. Usage is cyclical.
- Lack of restroom facilities has been a continuous issue and part of the reason there was discussion of relocating the skate park. After a handful of meetings on the subject, the Park Board voted to allow it to be moved to Falge Park.
- Users didn't seem very interested in Falge Park, indicating they prefer to be in a more visible location such as the current site.
- Some problems once attributed to the skate park were really linked more to nearby residents.
- Current equipment was acquired used from a city in Minnesota and paid for from a donation by a former County resident.
- Some of the current ramps could, perhaps, be cannibalized to repair others as a short term fix. And, maybe money could be budgeted to buy one new piece each year until all current equipment is replaced.
- On a recent trip it was noted that virtually every city passed through seemed to have a skate park.

Motion was made by Moore, seconded by Pearson and carried by voice vote to recommend to the Council that it include \$15,000 in the 2017 budget to replace one piece of equipment (half pipe) and repair others at the skate park.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.