

Community Development Department

222 Lewis Street
River Falls, WI 54022
715.425.0900
www.rfcity.org



AGENDA
JOINT MEETING OF PARK BOARD AND
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MARCH 11, 2020 at 6:00 pm
Training Room

CALL HPC MEETING TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Minutes of the February 19, 2020 Historic Preservation Commission meeting
Minutes of the February 19, 2020 Park Board meeting

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Non-Agenda Items

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Glen Park
 - a. New Glen Park Pavilion opening day
 - b. Share pavilion board images and captions (captions enclosed)
 - c. Postcards
 - d. HPC slideshow/presentation
 - e. Update on "The Glen" River Falls heritage interpretive sign
2. Heritage Park
 - a. Potential site for next River Falls heritage interpretive sign
 - b. Any future plans or possibilities for the area
3. Partnership Opportunities
 - a. Between HPC, Park Board, the city, and other organizations
 - b. Sharing in project planning for public history features
 - c. Funding and grant applications

CALENDAR

Next Historic Preservation Commission meeting April 8, 2020.
Next Park Board meeting April 15, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Council members may be in attendance for informational purposes only. No official Council action will be taken.

Community Development Department

222 Lewis Street
River Falls, WI 54022
715.425.0900
www.rfcity.org



MINUTES HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION FEBRUARY 19, 2020 at 6:00 pm Council Chambers

HPC Members Present: Heidi Heinze, Jayne Hoffman, Mark Anderson, Jeff Bjork, Denton Anderson (left at 6:37), Pam Friede (left at 7:05)
HPC Members Absent: Michael Page
Staff Present: Brandy Howe
Others Present: Judie Foster-Babcock

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting convened at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2020

Bjork made a motion to approve the minutes with an amendment to the attendance, removing Mark Anderson from members present.

M/Bjork, S/Hoffman – motion carried 6-0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Heinze reported that her presentation with Eastern Star was rescheduled to March 2, 2020.

Heinze also reported that she attended [History Day in the Capitol](#) in Madison and had pleasant meetings with Senator Patty Schachtner and Representative Shannon Zimmerman. She noted that they would plan to attend City/Preservation Commission events if invited and their schedules permit. Heinze plans to invite them both to the grand opening of the Glen Park Pavilion.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. **Presentation by Judie Foster-Babcock of Kinni Corridor Collaborative**

Foster-Babcock gave an informative presentation about the Kinni Corridor Collaborative (KCC), its founding, board members, initiatives, and funding goals. She invited the HPC to attend KCC at any time and opened the door for collaboration.

2. HPC logo – finalize and approve

The HPC reviewed M. Anderson's proposed logo design. Bjork made a motion to approve the logo as presented.

M/Bjork, S/Friede – passed 5-0

3. Glen Park pavilion image boards – finalize images and captions

The HPC continued finalized revisions for the image descriptions. Staff will select a vendor and place an order for the photo boards in the coming months. M. Anderson requested a strip proof of the swimming pool image to ensure that the photo isn't too pixelated for production. Howe will endeavor to do that.

Bjork made a motion to approve the image captions as edited.

M/Bjork, S/M. Anderson – passed 4-0

4. The Glen interpretive sign update – if time permits

No discussion. Item forwarded to the March meeting.

CALENDAR

Next Historic Preservation Commission meeting March 11, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

Bjork made a motion to adjourn at 7:41.

M/Bjork, S/Hoffman – motion carried 4-0



222 Lewis Street
River Falls, WI 54022

Phone 715-425-0900
Fax 715-425-0915

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 5:15 p.m.
Glen Park Pavilion

Members Present: Patricia LaRue (Chair), Sean Downing (Council Rep), Brandon Dobbertin, Brenda Gaulke, Jim Nordgren, Melissa Pedrini, and Susan Reese.

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Cindi Danke-*Recreation Manager*; Brenda Rundle-*Recreation Assistant*

Others Present: None

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting convened at 5:25 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MSC Reese/Dobbertin to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2020 Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting with two small changes to clarify which group and which prairie were discussed. Motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There has been good feedback from those who have rented the new pavilion.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

A draft of the 2020 Activity Guide was shared with Park Board. A little over \$7,000.00 has been collected for shelter reservations so far this calendar year. Due to the new (2019) software, season pool passes will be offered this year instead of punch cards. The pool will be able to accept credit/debit cards this year due to the new software and the addition of Wi-Fi at Glen Park. Swimmers will need to wear a wristband in the pool this year due to the gate between the new splash pad and the pool.

MSC Gaulke/Reese to sell season passes instead of punch cards at Glen Park Pool. Motion carried 7-0.

AARP is offering a Community Challenge 2020, which are "Quick-Action" Grants to make communities more livable for people of all ages. Park Board is encouraged to look it over and

share ideas. Applications are due April 1. One suggestion Cindi received included more tent camping spaces (some with electric), a fire ring or pit, and with rental tents that can be checked out from City Hall so local families can try out camping with minimum expense or effort. Park Board discussed how much work it is to handle tent rentals. Other ideas included porch swings in parks, painting classes, dance classes, and disc golf. Another idea includes making Lake George more appealing by adding a decorative, calming aerator in Lake George; those trails are handicapped accessible, located near senior housing, and include some benches.

We may also be able to apply for a park design award from the Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association for our Glen Park remodel.

ADJOURNMENT

MSC Downing/Dobbertin to adjourn the meeting at 6:15p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda Rundle, Recreation Assistant

Final Glen Park picture captions

Swinging Bridge 1925

As early as the 1860s, the area below the Swinging Bridge has been a popular site for outings. In this glen, the bridges built to cross the South Fork of the Kinnickinnic River were often washed out by floods. In response, members of the River Falls Improvement League spearheaded a fundraising effort to erect a higher bridge. In 1925, the Minneapolis Bridge Company was commissioned to design and build a suspension bridge at a cost of \$4,800. The bridge was placed directly over the Cascade Mill dam and spans 130 ft. connecting Glen Park to Cascade Avenue. The bridge was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2018.

Photo Collection: Pierce County Historical Society

**Zoo at Glen Park
Est. 1923**

The River Falls Rod and Gun Club started a small Glen Park Zoo in 1923 with the purchase of two bears named Billy and Betty. The zoo's population grew to include Petie the Badger, Dick the Buck Deer, as well as an assortment of other deer, badgers, wolves, coyotes, bears, raccoons, porcupines, fox and lynx. The steep slope that extended from the park to the lower pond was fenced to hold the white-tailed deer. A small ravine (now filled in) below the 1953 lodge was where the bear pen stood. Popular with tourists and children, the collection of animals was mainly cared for by the zoo's custodian, Joseph Konichek, who was affectionately known as "Dad". The zoo operated at a variety of levels for about two decades.

Photo Collections: Jayne Hoffman and the University of Wisconsin River Falls Archives and Area Research Center

River Falls Improvement League
Est. 1900

The River Falls Improvement League was instrumental in the development of Glen Park. The league was established by a group of River Falls women for the purpose of community beautification and betterment. In 1901, these women recruited volunteer families to maintain lots within the park, an effort which proved to be short-lived. Over the next 25 years, they continued their energies to maintain Glen Park and numerous other beautification efforts in the park and the River Falls community. Some of their park efforts included maintaining the cleanliness of the public restrooms and raising funds to finance the building of a dining lodge. Additionally, they raised the capital to replace two flooded out South Fork glen bridges and finance the building of the Swinging Bridge.

Photo Collection: Jayne Hoffman

Glen Park Pool and Bathhouse 1937

Construction of the Glen Park Pool complex began in 1933 during three important Federal jobs programs established during Franklin D. Roosevelt's first presidential term - the Civil Works Administration (CWA), followed by the Public Works Administration (PWA) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA). It was completed in 1937. The 40 x 105 sq. ft. in-ground pool and single-story Craftsman-style bathhouse were designed by River Falls engineer, Herman T. Hagestad, and built at a cost of \$6,000. A splash pad was added in 2020. Both the pool and bathhouse were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2007.

Photo Collection: University of Wisconsin River Falls Archives and Area Research Center

Glen Park Lodge 1912

This Glen Park Lodge was dedicated on May 24, 1912. It replaced a pavilion built in 1899 by Joel Foster and John Barrett. The women of the Improvement League raised about \$600 to build the two-room lodge that primarily served as a dining hall and was equipped with electricity. It had a large stone fireplace and screened windows that could be closed with canvas drapes during inclement weather. The lodge was destroyed by a tornado on May 10, 1953. Bert Symes designed a cement block lodge with a kitchen and stone fireplace to replace the 1912 structure. It was dedicated in October 1953. In 2020, a new lodge was constructed and the 1953 building will serve as additional storage for the City.

Photo Collection: Jayne Hoffman

Summer Days

For generations, many family memories have been created in picturesque Glen Park. Over the years, numerous park features have provided a variety of enjoyable activities for park patrons such as hiking trails along the Kinnickinnic River, as well as picnic shelters, volleyball and basketball courts, horseshoe pits, softball, soccer and football fields, and a tennis court. Children gravitated towards the pool and playground areas as well as being able to enjoy a treat purchased from Clarence "Pop" Armstrong's iconic "Poptcorn Wagon".

Photo: School District of River Falls High School Annual

Glen Park
Est. 1898

The Cascade Mills and dam built in 1868 along the South Fork of the Kinnickinnic River created waterfalls and glen at its foot. This area attracted visitors and became a popular place for local picnickers and hikers. On July 15, 1898, Normal School Chancellor Warren J. Brier led a committee in a successful effort to convince the City Council to purchase 21 acres of land south of the falls and glen that was known as the "Powell Woods". The new park was named City Park. By the late 20th century, the park was commonly referred to as "Glen Park" in honor of the features that had prompted its founding. In 1956, the city expanded the park with a \$5,000 purchase of five acres from John Bartosh; this area is now known as Bartosh Field. Over time, playground areas, ball fields, tennis courts, picnic shelters, and bike and walking trails were added. Pictured is a small structure that was known as the Glen Park Kitchen.

Photo Collection: Pierce County Historical Society

RIVER FALLS HERITAGE

THE GLEN

*This bridge that spans our river bed
Some cross with 'bated breath, 'tis said.*

River Falls High School
Kinnick Yearbook - 1931

**The Glen -
In 18xx, text, text**

History of the Glen here