

Silver Lake Advisory Commission Minutes: Mar 16, 2023

7:00pm KRC Meeting Room

Members in attendance:

Gary Pugh, Randy Ammann, Bill Blechinger, Ron Wagner, Steve Phettscher, Don Romerschirchen, Craig Korte, Natural Resource Manager Ryan Hummert

Guests: David Todd, Colby Reilson

Motion to approve minutes made at 7:02Pm

Staff Reports:

Natural Resource Manager Ryan Hummert provided the Commission with the updates on the City Reservoir Dam project and passed around the current construction plans for each member to view. Gary Pugh advised the plan may change slightly to the underground boring of the water main.

Manager Hummert provided an update on the Kayak Kiosk and asked the commission for recommended fees to be charged. The consensus was \$15 per hour per kayak. The commission recommended that signage be installed at the interstate indicating No Kayaks past this point for the rentals.

Manager Hummert advised the commission he met with Eric Duft, whose family owns the former Johnny Walter Property which adjoins city land on the Northeast end of Silver Lake/I70, about doing a prescribed burn on their property and working with the City to incorporate prescribed burning each year on its property around the lake. This would clear the invasive species from the forest floor allowing the mature desirable trees to grow and flourish. The company Eric works with would assume all liability and provide the personnel and safety equipment to ensure a safe and successful burn. The commission supported this program and would like to recommend that the city partner and incorporate this into the yearly maintenance plan. Manger Hummert agreed with the commission request and will obtain the proper information and coordinate with Director Rosen on a proposed plan.

Guests:

Dave Todd asked if we could inquire with the city attorney as to the rules for leasing and renting on the lake. He advised the City should not be permitted to lease or rent dock spaces or kayaks as it is stated in the original land agreement. Manager Hummert advised he would forward his question to the city attorney.

New Business:

The Silver Lake Commission would like to make a formal recommendation that the city designates a specific fund directly for Silver Lake Watershed enhancements. This fund would be generated by applying a 5-7% tax per customer on their monthly water bill. Water Operator Gary Pugh advised we currently have approximately 4500 customers utilizing City of Highland Water with an average bill in the amount \$80 per month. At 7% we would generate around \$25,000 per year specifically for watershed improvements and or grant match.

The commission also advised that they would like to see the spillway/coffer dam installed with the next EPA 319 grant in order to effectively manage the silt and sediment entering from the creek.

Randy Ammann mentioned introducing another shoreline cleanup and advertising on our new Highland media app as well as with purchased boat stickers.

Manger Hummert formally introduced Colby Reilson to the commission as the maintenance leader for Silver Lake Park and surrounding areas. The commission commented on how great the park looks and extended a thank you for all the improvements made.

Motion was made to adjourn at 7:55PM.