

**City of Lodi Parks Committee Meeting
Minutes of February 4, 2025**

1. Call to Order

Chair Ripp called meeting to order at 5:00 PM

Committee Members Present: Eric Hansen, Tim Ripp, Geoffrey Vorlander, Charlie Luthin, Mike Goethel, Jennie Larson, Kelsey Brady (virtual)

Staff Present: Brenda Ayers, Jennifer Sweeney, James Lincoln

Others: Dennis Crow, Jonathan Stefonek, Jackie Troia, Scott Allen

2. Meeting Etiquette.

Ripp read the meeting etiquette

3. Public Input.

Charlie Luthin stated he was upset that several ancient trees have been removed from Goeres Park over the last several years. He read a statement to the Parks Committee.

4. Approve of Minutes from January 7, 2025

MOTION (Goethel, Vorlander) to approve the minutes from the January 7, 2025 meeting. Voice Vote: Goethel, Vorlander, Luthin, Ripp, Hansen, Brady, Larsen - Aye (7); Nay (0). **Motion carried.**

5. Parks Financials

Goethel asked if the projected project spreadsheet had been updated recently. Ayers stated she could provide it at the next meeting.

6. Discussion and Possible Recommendation Regarding Spring Creek Walls

The committee discussed the DNR presentation that took place at the January meeting. Ayers stated the committee needed to place parameters on the project and create an outline. Lincoln stated he needed to know if the committee was interested in pursuing the project in order to discuss further with the DNR. Goethel stated that he is concerned where the funding will come from for this project. Ripp stated there is grant funding available for these types of projects. Lincoln stated the DNR was very clear there is not funding to rebuild the stone-stacked walls as-is. The committee agreed that the walls along the creek are not sustainable long term. The committee would like Lincoln to have further discussions with the DNR regarding the Spring Creek Walls. He will bring information back to a future committee meeting.

7. Dog Park Update

Larson stated the Friends of the Lodi Dog Park has surpassed their goal. She also stated that they have two additional fundraising events planned. Ayers stated the plans needed to be formalized with costs for fencing, etc. Additionally, she stated the city should not enter in a lease until they are actually using the property. She also provided a list of items the cemetery association would like in the lease. There would be a lease between the city and the cemetery and a memorandum of understanding between the city and the Friends of the Dog Park. Ayers would like these items discussed with council members at the Economic Development, Finance, and Human Resources Committee. Ripp agreed that an update about the dog park should be on the Economic Development, Finance, and Human Resources Committee meeting in February. Then, in March, the Friends of the Dog Park should bring firm numbers to the next Parks Committee meeting. This item could again be discussed at the March Economic Development, Finance, and Human Resources Committee meeting.

8. Utilities, Streets, and Parks Superintendent Report

Lincoln provided an update regarding the departments he supervises.

9. Meeting Recap

Ripp gave a recap of the items discussed.

10. Future Agenda Items

Luthin would like the committee to create a value statement for the parks. Ripp recommended that committee members review the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the city's comprehensive plan prior to the next meeting. He would like to see this on the next agenda. Ripp would also like to discuss naturalizing the shore along Spring Creek in the other parks. Luthin would also like to discuss a tree management plan. Ripp would like Lincoln to look into tree removal and management in the city and report back at the next meeting.

11. Next Meeting Date – Tuesday, March 4 at 5:00 p.m.

12. Adjourn

MOTION (Luthin, Vorlander) to adjourn at 5:57 p.m. Voice Vote: Goethel, Hansen, Ripp, Luthin, Vorlander, Brady, Larsen - Aye (7); Nay (0). **Motion carried.**

Minutes by Jennifer Sweeney, Deputy Administrator

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