

Silver Lake Advisory Commission Minutes: July 17, 2025

7:00pm KRC Meeting Room

Members in attendance:

Gary Pugh, Randy Ammann, Bill Blechinger, Russ Perfetti, Craig Korte, Don Romirschirchen, Colby Schrumpf, Natural Resource Manager Ryan Hummert

Guests: David Todd, Josh Kirchoff

Motion to approve minutes made at 7:01 pm

Staff Reports:

Manager Hummert introduced new commission member Colby Schrumpf to the group. Colby and his family have lived and managed property directly bordering and adjacent to the lake for many years and he will be a valuable asset to the commission.

Manager Hummert advised the commission of the current 319 grant progress in the watershed which includes completed private property partner projects on the Rutz family farm, Dennis Kusterman farm, and Hunsche family farms which will directly benefit the silt and sediment entering the lake. He informed the commission of the ongoing plans to install sheet piling across the cove directly adjacent to the emergency boat ramp in order to slow the discharge of water coming out of the nearby subdivision drainage area as well as contain the silt and sediment deposits. The project will be a partner project between the City and the EPA and will also be partially funded with the 319 grant. The commission was also able to view several potential shoreline rip rap sites on the aerial maps that were identified by Michael Andreas, engineer for Heartlands Conservancy, which could be completed with remaining funds in the 319 grant.

Manager Hummert informed the commission of the progress being made with the Highland sidewalks and trails master plan designs which will ultimately connect the south part of town to Silver Lake via bike/walking trails. He conveyed the overwhelming response to the city wide survey which indicated the residents and non-residents of Highland would like to see better access to Silver Lake Park and its amenities. The trail could traverse from Frank Watson Parkway through the KC hall parking lot and up Cally Lane with a trail entrance at the rear of the park near Bargetzi Pond.

The members were informed of the 7640 largemouth bass which were deposited into the fish rearing pond at Silver Lake by the IDNR fisheries division as part of our annual cooperative partnership. Colby Schrumpf indicated we could begin depositing fat head adult minnows earlier in the spring once the pond was full which would allow for a much greater spawn period, creating more ample food resources for the fish when they are deposited in June of each year. We discussed adding rip rap to the north side of the pond along the dam in order to remedy some of the muskrat issues along with providing better spawning/habitat for the minnows/fish.

Several commission members commented on the heavy use of the kayak kiosk and the success of the program. Manager Hummert advised the city was very close to completely paying off the kiosk with the funds being received and he would have the updated revenue/day use numbers at the next meeting.

Guests:

- Dave Todd reinforced the need of the commission to start putting funds together to specifically go towards lake improvement projects instead of only utilizing the 319 money. This could be done with a percentage of the water/utility bill going directly to the lake project fund which could be used along with grant money or in lieu of.

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 7:52pm.