

**City of Isanti
Park & Recreation Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2013
Isanti City Hall**

A. Call To Order

Wilson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Park Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Roll Call

Members Present: Mayor George Wimmer, Jamie Bergwick, Jennifer Garvey, and Aaron Zdon.

Members Absent: Clell Bone (gave prior notice).

Staff Present: Lisa Wilson, Planning and Parks Director

D. Agenda Modifications

Wilson stated that she did not have any modifications for the Agenda.

Wimmer stated that he did have two additions under Item K, Updates. Wimmer stated that he would like to add a request for a sand volleyball court and information regarding the recent meeting with Vision Wake Park.

Wilson questioned if there were any other changes to the agenda.

No additional modifications were entered into the record.

Wilson requested a motion to approve the modifications to the Agenda as presented.

Motion by Zdon, second by Wimmer to approve the January 22nd, 2013 Agenda with the modifications as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

E. Organization of Advisory Bodes as per Chapter 8 of the Isanti City Code

1. Oath of Office for all Park & Recreation Board Members

a. Clell Bone

b. Jamie Bergwick

Wilson stated that Mr. Bone had been re-appointed to the Board and Mrs. Bergwick had been appointed as a new member to the Board. Wilson stated that both members are required to take an oath of office. Wilson stated that Mr. Bone would have to do so at the next meeting, but Mrs. Bergwick would need to rise, raise her right hand and read from the oath that had been provided.

Bergwick recited the Oath of Office.

Wilson thanked her and welcomed her to the Board.

2. Chair of Park & Recreation Board

Wilson stated that she was looking for nominations for the position of Chair.

Wimmer stated that he would like to nominate Mr. Zdon, if he is willing.

Zdon stated that he had declined last year, but would like to do so this year.

Motion by Wimmer, second by Garvey to nominate Mr. Zdon as Chair of the Park and Recreation Board. Motion was unanimously approved.

Wilson stated that she would turn the meeting over to Mr. Zdon.

Wimmer stated that he would like to see Mr. Zdon take the seat, front and center.

3. Vice-Chair of Park & Recreation Board

Zdon stated that he was looking for nominations for Vice Chair of the Park Board.

Wimmer stated that he would like to nominate Mrs. Garvey for that position.

Zdon questioned if Mrs. Garvey would be interested in serving as Vice Chair.

Garvey stated yes.

Motion by Wimmer, second by Zdon to nominate Mrs. Garvey as Vice Chair of the Park and Recreation Board. Motion was unanimously approved.

4. Secretary of Park & Recreation Board

Zdon stated that the next position would be for the Secretary, which is typically staff.

Motion by Wimmer, second by Zdon to nominate Mrs. Wilson or City staff as Secretary of the Park and Recreation Board. Motion was unanimously approved.

5. Approve Park & Recreation Board Meeting Dates

Zdon stated that the Board meeting dates have been included for approval. Zdon stated that the December meeting has not been scheduled, as it normally falls around the Christmas holiday and is cancelled.

Motion by Garvey, second by Wimmer to approve the Park and Recreation Board meeting dates for 2013. Motion was unanimously approved.

6. Review of Park & Recreation Board Member Involvement with other Boards

Wilson stated that the only other Board that the City has involvement on is the BMX Board. Wilson stated that Mr. Zdon is currently the Board member assigned to this group. Wilson stated that it would be up to the Park Board as to whether they would like to keep Mr. Zdon as the liaison or if they would like to nominate a different member.

Zdon stated that he would still like to be involved with that group.

Motion by Garvey, second by Wimmer for Mr. Zdon to continue as the Park Board member appointed to the Rum River BMX Board. Motion was unanimously approved.

7. Review of Conflict of Interest Policy (To be reviewed at February 26th meeting)

Wilson stated that Mr. Joslin had a conflicting meeting scheduled at 5:00 p.m. this evening. Wilson stated that Mr. Joslin would be present at the February meeting to review the Conflict of Interest Policy.

F. Approval of Minutes from November 27, 2012 Park and Recreation Board Meeting

Zdon stated that the minutes from the November meeting have been included for approval.

Motion by Wimmer, second by Garvey to approve the November 27, 2012 Park and Recreation Board meeting minutes. Motion was unanimously approved.

G. Schedule Annual Park Tour

Wimmer stated that the tour has usually been held at the April meeting, as this gives City staff the opportunity to fix any issues that may be identified before the park season gets into full swing.

Motion by Garvey, second by Wimmer to schedule the annual park tour for the April 23rd, 2013 meeting. Motion was unanimously approved.

H. Future Dog Park Discussion

Wilson provided some background information regarding the discussion.

Sheridan Basa stated that she is a Junior at the Cambridge-Isanti High School and is a girl scout. Basa stated that she has been for 11 years. Basa stated that she is working on her gold award right now and it is the highest that a girl scout can earn. Basa stated that she had an idea to start a dog park in Isanti. Basa stated that a friend of hers had told her about the dog park in Cambridge, just a few weeks ago. Basa stated that she didn't know that there was a dog park in Cambridge. Basa stated that she had visited the park and it is basically a fenced in field with nothing there, located in the middle of nowhere. Basa stated that for the gold award she thought it would be a good idea to start a dog park in Isanti where it can be more centrally located; and would bring the community together. Basa stated that she had e-mailed the guidelines from the AKC to the City. Basa outlined some of the requirements that were provided in the literature.

Basa stated that there were pictures that she provided from the Cambridge Park showing the parks' amenities. Basa stated that her first idea was to place it somewhere over by Bluebird Park. Basa stated that there is a lot going on there. Basa stated that she is open to other ideas. Basa stated that the deadline for the gold award is September 2014, so if it is possible for her to get things started and know that it will get finished that would work. Basa stated that if she is still around, she would be more than happy to help. Basa stated that in the information she had received it could take a few years to get things started and it would take a lot of funds. Basa stated that she is aware that the credit unions do have grants available for up to \$1000. Basa stated that she does a lot of fundraising for girl scouts, so she knows how to organize to get things together for a fundraising event. Basa stated that part of the gold award is to get the community involved and to put in volunteer hours. Basa explained that through the fundraising efforts she would be doing both.

Wimmer stated that he commended her for coming forward to present this item. Wimmer stated that the biggest issue would be if there is a site in a central location for this project. Wimmer stated that he is not aware of too many open spots. Wimmer stated that there are spots that are not used for 90% of the year, but then are used for an event. Wimmer stated that Unity Park, in the open area may be an idea, but it is used for the Rodeo days. Wimmer stated that it is an interesting idea and there are a lot of dog owners in the community that would be happy with this project. Wimmer stated that we would have to try and find a piece of property that would lend itself to this type of park. Wimmer questioned how large of an area is needed.

Basa stated that the AKC standards specify at least an acre. Basa stated that it had to be enough room for the dogs to run.

Garvey questioned if that was a requirement from the AKC.

Basa stated yes. Basa stated that a couple of other dog websites she had reviewed; also recommended at least an acre.

Bergwick questioned if the AKC comes out to review that we meet those standards or is this just something being used as an example for the research for the park.

Basa stated that she had not done a lot of research. Basa stated that they were mainly for general ideas.

Garvey questioned if it was okay if she spoke to some more general information. Garvey stated that she works for a community that has tried to establish a dog park. Garvey stated that it has been about 5 years of a planning process to try to get this started in that community. Garvey stated that she did not feel that there was a certain size. Garvey stated that it doesn't surprise her that the AKC would like a larger area, especially if you live in a populated area and have a lot of dogs coming through. Garvey stated that her community was looking at $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre and an acre site. Garvey stated that the size being recommended is not something we would have to go by. Garvey questioned if she had looked into the cost for fencing or did any budgeting.

Basa stated that she has not done any major research.

Garvey stated that at the locations she had been looking at for the community she works for, the cost for fencing at both the locations mentioned was \$30,000. Garvey stated that cutting it in half, probably around \$15,000.

Zdon stated that he would guess that is the biggest expense.

Garvey stated that the only other thing to consider is water. Garvey stated that if the park were next to a natural water source that would help. Garvey stated that if not, the City would need to look at providing a water source, which would add to the cost.

Bergwick stated that poop scoop stations would also be necessary.

Zdon stated that trash facilities as well, along with equipment and benches.

Wimmer questioned if this project didn't work out, are there other projects that she could work on.

Basa stated that she did get the information for the dog park in Cambridge. Basa stated that if this didn't work out, then she could work to improve the existing park.

Zdon stated that he has baseball up their all spring and summer; and they rarely see anyone there. Zdon stated that it is a great idea, but needs more research.

Wimmer questioned if she was from Isanti.

Basa stated that she was.

Wimmer stated that the Board will look into it some more. Wimmer stated that the location and cost may be issues. Wimmer stated that there is nothing in the park plan for it, not that there shouldn't be. Wimmer stated that the Board will be looking at their Comprehensive Park Plan this year. Wimmer stated that he thought another City in the area recently opened a park, but it took a while to do so. Wimmer stated that if she is interested in doing a project here, there are future development opportunities in Legacy Park. Wimmer stated that there may be some other opportunities for projects in Isanti. Wimmer stated that in February they could come back with some further information and options, pricing, etc. Wimmer stated that he thought it would be difficult to get anything done within the timeframe provided.

Basa stated that she didn't think it would be completed by the deadline. Basa stated that she has to have her project approved by the committee first and if she can get it started and have something substantial in place, she can use that for the gold award.

Zdon stated that more information will be brought back.

Wimmer stated that he and staff will look into some other parks and bring information back to the Board in February; and give a thumbs up or thumbs down as to if this is something we can get done in that period of time.

I. Rest Areas in Legacy Park

1. Identify Point/Rest Areas

2. Naming Process

Wilson stated that the Board had requested that staff provide them with a map at the meeting, so they could go through and identify some rest areas. Wilson stated that even in looking at the topography map, she didn't feel the board was going to be able to look at the map and identify potential rest areas. Wilson stated that the Board may need to schedule a meeting to go through the park and physically identify the areas during that tour.

Zdon stated that he is pretty familiar with the area, but it is difficult. Zdon questioned if this would be done the evening of the park tour or would we be looking at a separate meeting.

Wimmer stated that he thought it would be a separate meeting. Wimmer stated that to go through Legacy the night of the park tour would be difficult, as that meeting already goes beyond 6:00 p.m.

Zdon stated that the group could pick the areas at that time. Zdon stated that his recommendation would be for the group to just name each area at the same time. Zdon stated that we have not had luck with getting the public involved.

Wimmer stated that he has talked with the schools. Wimmer stated that the school board would like to re-vamp their relationship with the city. Wimmer provided background on how parks have been named in the past. Wimmer stated that the group tried to have input from the schools for naming Legacy Park; and it did not work. Wimmer stated that the teachers are eager to be involved in a contest. Wimmer stated that for the students to be involved, it does give them a sense of ownership in the community. Wimmer stated that the bike-walk trail was started in the late eighties by kids at the Isanti Middle School. Wimmer stated that the City has always had a close relationship with the schools and he would like to see that continue.

Zdon questioned if the group wanted to pick a date that evening.

Wimmer stated that as soon as we do the park tour, maybe we can pick a date then. Wimmer stated that he would like to pitch an idea to the park board to have an area in the park for camping for scouts. Wimmer stated that the project would need to have as minimal impact as possible. Wimmer stated that he would like to see the city engineer involved in that walk through as well.

Zdon stated that this would be shelved until the park tour.

J. Safe Routes to School Grant for 2013

Wilson presented the staff memo.

Wimmer stated that we did not have easements along county 5. Wimmer stated that the Council authorized us to obtain those easements. Wimmer stated that plans were put together to show that it would not take any parking/drainage; and the property owners have signed off on these areas. Wimmer stated that is not to say

that we would get the grant, but one of the stumbling blocks has been removed. Wimmer stated that the funding source had not been identified yet, so this would help.

Garvey questioned the proposed crosswalks.

Zdon pointed them out on the map provided.

Wimmer stated that once this is in, the County has always been against a controlled crosswalk. Wimmer stated that if the plans are constructed, then this crosswalk would be allowed.

Garvey questioned if it would be similar to by the school.

Wimmer stated no.

Garvey questioned the total costs. Garvey noticed the grant amounts.

Wilson stated that we would need to get estimates from the engineer. Wilson stated that we would be looking at going for just this section, so the original costs would need to be reviewed and revised accordingly.

Garvey questioned if we hoped the grant covered all the costs.

Wilson stated yes.

Motion by Garvey, second by Bergwick to recommend that the City move forward with applying for the 2013 Safe Routes to School Grant for the project area along County Road 5 NE from Elim Ln NE to Credit Union Dr NE. Motion was unanimously approved.

K. Updates

1. Volleyball Court Request

Wimmer stated that he had received a request that a sand volleyball court be provided in Rum River Meadows Park. Wimmer stated that the group may need to take a look at that request. Wimmer stated that he is not sure that was what was envisioned when the additional land was purchased. Wimmer stated that the group would need to review the item and see if it is appropriate.

Zdon questioned if they were going to approach the Board.

Wimmer stated that is the question for review, if it is even feasible to do it at that location.

2. Vision Wake Park Meeting

Wimmer stated that they met with the Wake Park group today. Wimmer stated that they did place an escrow and they constructed/paid for everything they did. Wimmer stated that last year they made roughly \$30,000. Wimmer stated that the City is to get 5% of the revenues (around \$1500); and they will be presenting a check to the City Council at the first meeting in June.

Zdon stated that they did start to pick-up at the end of the summer.

Wimmer stated that they have kept their bills paid and things seem to be working out.

Wimmer provided information regarding the trail extension that is being planned for a segment of South Passage. Wimmer stated that because these are state aid roads, the City would be using those funds to construct this trail segment. Wimmer stated that this area is heavily used and construction should start next spring.

I. Adjournment

Motion by Garvey, second by Bergwick to adjourn the January 22, 2013 Park and Recreation Board meeting.
Motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting ended at 5:32 p.m.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 26th day of February 2013.

Respectively submitted,

Lisa M. Wilson, AICP
Planning and Parks Director