

**CITY OF ISANTI
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
January 23, 2018
City Council Chambers**

1. Meeting Opening.

A. Call to Order.

Zdon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Roll Call.

Members Present: Jennifer Garvey, Jeff Johnson, James Witte, and Mayor Wimmer, Aaron Zdon

Staff Present: Katie Everett, Community Events and Parks Coordinator, Clark Joslin, City Attorney

Others Present: Julie Robillard,

D. Agenda Modifications.

Zdon asked if there were any agenda modifications. Witte stated that he would like to discuss snow clearing on trails in the City. Mayor Wimmer stated that could be discussed under the Parks Updates item. The board agreed. Mayor Wimmer made a motion to approve the agenda; second by Johnson. The January 23, 2018 Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Agenda was unanimously approved.

2. Organization of Advisory Bodies per Chapter 8 of the Isanti City Code

A. Oath of Office for New Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Member

Garvey stated the Oath of Office.

B. Chair of Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board

Mayor Wimmer nominated Aaron Zdon for Chair. Garvey seconded the nomination. Zdon was unanimously approved as Chair.

C. Vice-Chair of Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board

Mayor Wimmer nominated Jennifer Garvey for Vice-Chair. Johnson seconded the nomination. Garvey was unanimously approved as Vice-Chair.

D. Secretary of Parks, Recreation and Culture Board

Mayor Wimmer nominated City Staff; Zdon seconded the nomination. City Staff was unanimously approved as Secretary.

E. Approve Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Meeting Dates

Wimmer made a motion to approve the 4th Tuesday of each month with no meeting in December as the meeting dates for Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board in 2018; second by Johnson. The meeting dates were unanimously approved.

F. Discussion of Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Member Involvement with other Boards

Everett stated that this has been a standard item for the January agenda in the past. The Board determined that it is not applicable and can be removed for the future.

G. Review of Conflict of Interest Policy – Resolution No. 2018-008

City Attorney Clark Joslin reviewed the policy with the board members. Joslin stated that the purpose of the policy is to assure that the business of the city that comes before any board or commission is subject to the provisions of the policy and state law which prohibit any public officials from acting on matters on which they may have a conflict of interest. He explained what a conflict of interest is and gave the examples. He stated that if the board members ever had a question about a situation that may be a conflict of interest, they can check online at the League

of Minnesota Cities or feel free to call him as City Attorney and he will help them to find the answer. Joslin also explained the Open Meeting Law to the board; whenever there is a quorum present outside of a meeting there should not be any discussions on any issues that may come before the board. Similarly, it is not permissible for one member to call another member to discuss a matter of business and encourage that they call another member; this is a way to circumvent the Open Meeting Law and is not allowed.

2. Approval of Minutes from November 28, 2017 Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Meeting

Motion by Johnson; second by Witte. Minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Schedule Annual Park Tour

Everett explained that this typically is done in April, this year that will be April 24th. Wimmer made a motion to approve the April meeting as the park tour date; second by Garvey. Motion unanimously approved.

4. Rock Program – Julie Robillard, Cambridge-Isanti Schools

Julie Robillard, Isanti township resident and School District representative, came to the podium to address the board. Robillard explained that she came to the board to ask permission to use the City Parks for a project she'd like to start. Her daughter attends Southwest Minnesota State where they have a project that is wildly popular. They paint rocks and hide them in the parks; people find them and take pictures of them and post them to their rock page and then rehide it. There are businesses in town that have a special rock and then something they do with it; they have a Hy-Vee grocery store so the kids can bring in the rock and get a free cookie or something. She explained that when she was there to visit over the summer there were hundreds of families in the parks doing this. She is interested in trying this here as well. She explained that they would also put the Facebook page on the back of the rocks so people knew where to find them online. She has also spoken with Isanti County Parks and City of Cambridge and everyone is on board to get a Cambridge-Isanti rock program started. Zdon asked who would paint the rocks. Robillard explained that she works for the school district for Moving Forward which is a program for special needs kids that have graduated from high school but have not yet moved on to a working position. They volunteer to get work experience. Those kids have been painting. Some homeschool families have been painting rocks as well, and the recreation person at River Hills and Grace Point Crossing will be getting rocks so that the residents can paint as well. Depending on the weather, they are hoping to start in March or April. They will kick off the Facebook page; they're hoping to get it posted to the County Parks Facebook page and hoping that the Mayor will put out a blurb on his page. There will also be an article in the newspaper. Her kids will go out and hide them initially and the community will take over after that. Robillard will manage the Facebook page. Johnson asked for clarification if her kids are painting the rocks and he finds one does he re-hide it. Robillard explained that yes, he could re-hide it or he could keep it if he really liked it. Witte asked if Facebook would be the only social media outlet used. Robillard confirmed that it would; she will pin rules to the top of the page. The rules would include no hiding in grass for lawn maintenance and safety so the rocks don't fly out from the mowers. She explained that the rocks for smaller kids are hidden in plain sight; so they are hoping to use playground equipment and in bushes in landscaping or crooks of trees. Isanti County would like a rule that the rocks are painted with only appropriate images (nothing religious and all age appropriate). Wimmer stated that he and Everett had met with the other family interested in doing this program and what they discussed was that everything on the rocks would have to be appropriate and that getting business approval if their landscaping is going to be used. Additionally making sure that people know if they want to paint rocks how to get them stamped as part of the program. Robillard stated that will just be putting the Facebook on them; she hasn't set up the page yet but will do that once she has the rules from everyone. She also stated that Isanti County would like to post at the larger parks something that states that if people find a rock they can post it to the Facebook page to advertise the program. They are also hoping to use the bike path

too, maybe on the bridge or where the benches are. Some of the rules from Cambridge are to not hide down by the river for safety. Witte asked how long Marshall has been doing this; Robillard stated that they started last year. Their program is progressing, they started with rocks and then in the winter they did small pieces of wood that kids used as ornaments on trees. She stated that they don't have snow in Marshall right now, so they're still out finding rocks.

Zdon asked what the board needs to do for approval. Wimmer stated that the board would give a recommendation and City Council would have to give approval for them to be placed in the parks. Council would want to look at the rules; they'd want some of the same things that the County is looking for like keeping everything appropriate. He stated that giving a pitch to the Chamber may also be a good idea because there are a number of businesses that may embrace it. The Chamber here is the North 65 Chamber, so it's not just one city and actually fits well with what Robillard is trying to accomplish. Johnson stated that he thinks it's a great idea; and as long as we have the rules and are emphasizing that 7:00 am to 10:00 pm are the park hours. Witte asked how many rocks they plan to start with. Robillard explained there are a lot of parks to hide them in, but they hope to get at least 5 rocks in most parks. There are a lot of rocks to paint which is why she has so many people involved. Wimmer stated that there are 40-50 depending on what you count as a park between the county and city parks.

Mayor Wimmer made a motion to make a recommendation to City Council to approve the rock program; second by Johnson. Vote was unanimously approved.

5. Winter Event – Jeff Johnson

Johnson explained that he has done quite a bit of legwork on the idea of Bentleyville in Isanti. He actually talked to the guy that builds Bentleyville, another holiday lights company, and a gentleman that grasped the idea of building it for us. He has a lot of questions that he asked. Bentleyville is now 15 years old; he's been there twice and remembers it like yesterday because it's a pretty cool place. He recognized that it will start out slow and it might be kind of rough. Bentleyville started with 10-12 major sponsors; today they have 150. He asked the gentleman that he spoke with, Tim, and asked him to pull up a map and they talked about Bluebird Park as a location and Tim stated it was a great location. Tim said it would probably start around 5 to 10 acres and grow from there. The price tag he found was \$600,000 on lights alone, over 15 years it's been \$2 million. The light structures are iron structures that are painted and the lights are put on them. They did have a significant amount of loss until 2013, and now they are tripling that amount. If it is done right, in hopes we could turn out that way. Tim stated that \$30,000-\$50,000 should be sufficient to start. That is just for lights. He also mentioned that we need volunteers to work the event. Johnson reached out to see if there was any interest and the Lions and the VFW jumped on board. The big thing that Tim said was electric cords and checking the codes where that is concerned. Tim also recommended that if we are going to buy the displays that we go overseas or he recommended Temple Display. Tim said that Bentleyville uses the displays 3 to 5 seasons and then they replace them; so we could also grab on to somebody's recycled stuff for cheaper. Witte asked what they do with them now. Johnson stated that they scrap them, so why not grab on to something like that. He said that Minnesota Power has a kickback program if you use LED lights. Zdon stated that we'd have to use LED. Bentleyville in the first year with their 5 to 10 acres, Minnesota Power gave them \$25,000. Johnson stated that because his goal is to fill the hotel, why not get a kickback from the hotel. If people tell the hotel that they're staying the night to see the holiday light festival; the hotel then kicks the program a small percentage. These are all ideas. Johnson stated Bentleyville is spending \$40,000 a year on hot cocoa, \$30,000 on popcorn, \$20,000 on hats. After 15 years, they can do all of this. It's a lot of giveaways. Witte asked if all of this is given away. Johnson confirmed that it is all free. When they started there wasn't any of that; you paid \$5 for parking and saw your free light display. Johnson stated this is obviously the way we'd have to go; he doesn't see any other way we'd survive. We would work something out with whomever decides to run this for us. He said he found a gentleman from Duluth jumped on it immediately and said he'd build it in Isanti. Johnson said that he clarified with that person that he isn't just looking for someone to build it, we also need someone to run the whole thing. Johnson said that he has done the

legwork and has everything at his fingertips. He thinks if he hands it to the right people it will take off. He stated that with the information he has, all he'd ask is that it's brought to the Council. Zdon asked for clarification if it was Tim that runs Bentleyville that said he'd be interested in running it. Johnson said no, it was another person from Duluth Event Lighting.

Zdon asked Mayor Wimmer, for arguments sake, if someone wanted to spearhead this, if it would be a Special Event Permit or how it would work. He would imagine they'd be using the park for a month. Johnson stated that Bentleyville goes from the weekend after Thanksgiving to the weekend after Christmas. Garvey stated that they'll also have to do prep and tear down, so she would estimate 6-8 weeks. Mayor Wimmer stated that first we'd have to see it all in writing so we can make a judgement on it. When you say "hand off" if it's something that would be done by a private group, that private group would put together that proposal and make the presentation to the Council. That's how rodeo is done, BMX, soccer, that's how all of those big events are done. That sounds kind of like what this what Johnson is leaning toward. Then it would be a Special Event Permit situation. Zdon asked if a Special Event Permit could cover that length of time. Wimmer stated that it could; Zdon clarified that there aren't any bi-laws that say you can't have a six week event. Wimmer stated that again, if it's going to be a private entity that's doing it, he's assuming that it will have to be funded whether that's with sponsorship or cost to get in. When you do that in Bluebird Park, it would be difficult to have the park shut down for everything else but that. You have skating going on, other events going on. Bentleyville takes over the whole area. The benefit they have is that they have those parking garages right there. A lot of people will go up for a weekend or overnight. We would have to see on paper how they would propose to do it. For them to be able to do that, they'd have to come out and look at the site. Zdon stated that people would have to pay for admission; there'd have to be a gate or a thing of lights you walk through, they wouldn't be paying for parking. Johnson said that Bentleyville does paid parking. Zdon stated that you can't do that in the City park; there's no way to tell who is coming to park to go to this or to go skating or using the park for something. That's what we've done for BMX and other events. Wimmer stated that Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin has a smaller version of Bentleyville. It's still pretty elaborate, they take over a whole park. There it's donation only. You park in the park for free and then there's a donation bucket. To charge for parking within the park, we don't do that for those facilities. If it's something that would limit or eliminate the ability to use the other facilities in the park, that would, Wimmer thinks, a hindrance. It all depends on how they are going to do it. Zdon said he would think they'd start with the open bowl space, that's about 5 acres right there. Wimmer explained that how Special Event Permits work is there is an event map and an idea of the event impact. He and Everett are working with the rodeo for overflow parking, so there's a map of that whole area of town with the different parking, shuttling, horse trailers, etc. It's pretty elaborate. The rodeo has been doing this for decades, obviously, and it's getting bigger and kind of bursting from its seams. Those organizations are responsible for getting it all together, presenting it to us, and then we evaluate it. The Special Event permit goes through a number of departments here, including PD, as well as the Fire District. Everybody has to sign off on it that they've seen it and if there are any issues they'd have. When BMX does some of their big events, we block off that road. It's important for emergency services to know that so if an ambulance is coming through they know where they'll need to go. The permit process tries to cover all those things that come in to play. Everett stated that she can get Johnson that permit application so he knows what kind of information we look for. Zdon stated to summarize that Johnson can keep working on it and try to get someone to commit to taking it over, unless he wants to do it. Johnson said he can't. Zdon stated that whoever takes that over, would then get the benefits of whatever admissions and he would just have the Special Event Permit with us. Wimmer stated the first step is really getting down on paper what they think the impact would be. We don't want to get them so far down the road and then there's some hurdle that we have to get solved. It's best to kind of be talking about these things as they go. Johnson stated that putting together a proposal looks like it's the next step. Zdon agreed, and adding that looking at the power supply and all of those things. Everett stated that there are currently two outlets at Bluebird and each one can carry one bounce house before the circuit is blown. Zdon said those are things that can be addressed. Wimmer agreed and stated that when Wake Park was over there, they had to pay and upgrade all that electrical. It's all

ridiculously expensive. Johnson stated that he heard numbers of Bentleyville over the last 15 years and it was jaw dropping. Wimmer stated that Duluth, because they're so tourism driven, has passed some new sales taxes. What we're looking at doing, if we do get a hotel is a lodging tax. Then that money can be used to marketing and promoting any of those types of activities that get bodies into that facility. That's what those larger areas are using to grow these types of events. Then you get sponsors who want to give money to it because you get thousands of people coming to see it. It's one of those chicken and egg kinds of things – you need money to prime the pump, but you to have a good event that people are going to want to go to, so they have to kind of grow hand-in-hand. This is something that could be a really good thing. If there's somebody who's willing to put a plan on paper, that's the first test to see if they're real or not. If you get someone to do that, that's probably half the battle right there. We just need to see what the impact would be; everything from duration to facilities to power and how many port-a-potties would have to be brought in and how does that work in winter. All of those things that when you go to one of these events you don't notice until something doesn't work.

6. Middle School Tennis Court Reservation

Everett explained that the contract will be up after the Spring season. Right now, they are paying \$400 per season. The last few contracts we've been going up by \$25 and then those contracts are good for 2 years. Wimmer recommended going at least \$500 per season. We're putting in \$15,000 right now on those courts. It's still a great deal. When we first started it was set low just to get it in their mindset that these are something that need to be paid for. If you go to use a School District building or facility, there's a lot of cost for that including paying for a janitor to be on staff. They are well aware of the cost of doing business. The one way you can look it is that \$500 is not that much, the other way is that's a 25% increase from what we have previously. Johnson asked if they started at \$350. Everett said she thought that back in the day they actually started at \$300 or \$325. Johnson said that 10 years later, we're at \$500, that's still a good deal. Wimmer stated that he wants to keep accelerating this so we're getting a little bit for the usage out of it. They are using it for a couple hours kind of in prime time. We want to have a good partnership with the school district and have a good place for the kids to play, Wimmer doesn't want to lose sight of that. Johnson said he's seen the public use it quite often. Wimmer stated that he has heard some consternation that on beautiful days people can't use it because the court is taken. One of the things we could also start looking at is that we have another court over at Academy Park. They like this court because they can have the kids walk there and then there's no transportation cost. Everett added that there are also two courts here and there's only one at Academy Park. Garvey asked if Everett knows how many days per week they're using the courts. Everett stated they use it Monday through Thursday. Garvey asked if they use it for both games and practice. Everett said she didn't know for sure, but she's never seen any buses or anything there so she would have to think it's only practice. Zdon stated that he would think games would be at the high school. Zdon stated that he thinks \$500 per season is fair, especially with the \$15,000 resurfacing this year. He asked when the last work was done; Wimmer stated he thought it was '03 or '04. Zdon stated that then it works out to about \$1,000 per year just in surface upkeep.

Johnson made a motion to recommend \$500 per season for use of the Mattson Tennis Courts; second by Witte, vote unanimously approved.

Everett also gave a quick update that the Finance Committee has recommended a contractor for the resurfacing which will go to City Council on February 7th. Because the courts need to be around 50 degrees overnight, it likely won't happen before the Spring season, but hopefully right after that so they can be open most of the summer.

7. 2018 Farmers' Market Rules

Everett stated that for the most part these will stay the same. There are actually a lot of Farmers' Market rules that are state mandated and we couldn't change them if we wanted to. Anything that has to do with food has a lot of extra regulation. There are just a couple of things for us to think about that Everett has seen different at other markets. A language change for our membership. Over the last couple of years, we

have gotten more and more vendors who only come every other week because they rotate with other markets or things like that. Everett hasn't required them to come to the first four because then they wouldn't come at all. She recommended changing this to stated that instead of all vendors being required to come to the first four that full season vendors are there. The reason we have that rule at all is so that the first few weeks we are establishing that our market is something our customers will want to come to all season. If we open the market and we have two vendors there, customers give up right away. Everett has seen that it doesn't necessarily apply very well to all vendors; some people don't have anything to sell the first four weeks.

Everett stated that we have a rule about having to weigh down tents. It's a rule from when we were on the pavement at the old location. Now we're on grass, so people really have no excuse. As we get more and more new vendors they are inexperienced with pop up tents. Everett spends a lot of time helping to set those up and then realizing they don't have weights with them. Almost all of those tents come with stakes. Staking them down is what she usually recommends. Other markets have requirements for how much weight is required because some people will toss a backpack on a corner and the tent will still blow away. The recommended change is to require 40 pounds.

Everett stated that the last change is open for more discussion. In the past, we have had a business of the week booth. Since Everett took over, she has not had any businesses do this. The sponsorship program does include the chance for the sponsors to come for a day to have a booth to promote themselves and their common interest with the market. Last year, we had two different kids under 18 that wanted to start selling things at the market. Everett talked to the Minnesota Farmers Market Association about what kinds of rules there are about ages for being able to have a booth by yourself. What she did last year was to tell them they could come and just have a parent there with them. Minnesota Farmers Market Association says that there is no rule and they can have a booth at any age, and some markets have started having a youth booth. The kids can come in for free and the goal is to encourage kids to start getting into it. It sounds like it's a lot of 4-Hers that are expanding their fair projects and things. Wimmer stated that he's not a huge fan of doing it for free that way you can get the ones that are going to do it seriously, and they will be making money. That's the kind of person you want to attract; then they have a little skin the game too. Wimmer stated that he would also be concerned with that worst case scenario, if you have someone younger and they're not quite used to doing that kind of thing and someone tries to talk them down or something, we don't want to have something negative to happen. Wimmer stated he doesn't think there should be an age limit for vendors, but would want to have a responsible adult present. Garvey agreed that wording should be added. Witte asked for clarification that they'd have to pay the membership fee of \$10 and if they wanted to continue pay the \$10 fee for the days they'll be there. Everett stated that if someone wants to only come one day, it ends up costing them \$20; \$10 for the membership fee and \$10 for a single day booth fee. There are discounts if they want to come the full season or half season. Wimmer stated that the fee is there for the same reason that we charge at the community garden; it's to get people to have some skin the game so that people don't take it seriously. It also teaches the kids a life lesson that things cost money.

Everett stated that she will run them through Council with that change to the ages. Mayor Wimmer made a motion to recommend Council approve the rule changes; second by Garvey, unanimously approved.

8. 2018 Parks Publication Drafts

Everett explained that each member has updated color copies of the documents. She explained that the past Parks Brochures had a lot of redundant information from one year to the next, so in the 8x8 booklet she has combine all of the parks directory information that will be the same year over year. That information will be distributed at events or to new residents and can also be placed on the website so that people know what facilities we have here and what there is going on. Then we're not paying to print that same thing over and over again. To convey the information that does change, we have the handy foldable calendars. They will go out with Spring Isantian that goes out the beginning of March. They'll be printed

on the same paper as the old Parks Brochure so they'll be glossy and a little bit heavier than the copy paper. The goal is that people will keep them handy all year. They can hang up the calendar on their fridge or keep in their pocket and know what's going on. Johnson stated that he still has the 2017 brochure. Everett explained that the full page calendar has the overview of events and the back has a little bit more detail. For all of the big events that we do, Everett puts out all kinds of there marketing materials as well, but this is kind of a primer of what we've got going on.

Wimmer asked if Everett could give an update on Celebrate Isanti. Everett explained that Celebrate Isanti will be August 11th and we will be working with Anderson Race Management for timing of the 5K for us. That can help boost participation and will make it easier for us to manage. The experience for the runners will be much more fluid to get them registered and the timing at the end. We still will have places. Wimmer stated that we had about twice as many last year as we did the year before; Zdon stated that it will continue to grow. Everett stated that the race will continue to be free; there is money built into the budget for the event to bring someone in to help with that.

Everett asked the board if they had any other comments or questions on the brochures, otherwise they will be printed very soon. Wimmer stated that the golf course was added since the packet was put together because it is now part of the City.

9. Parks Updates

Everett stated that movie nights have been a success this year. We had 39 come for Arts and Science Academy's night. It was one of those days that it was really nice out so she wasn't sure if anyone would come to watch a movie. A point of discussion for the board is that Arts and Science Academy put their name in the hat to come back in February, but we also have a new girl scout troop. All of those girls are from Cambridge. She wasn't sure who would have priority, the Isanti group coming back or the outside group for the first time. She told both of those groups she would let them know by the beginning of February. Potentially, a new Isanti group still could come in. The rules do not clearly state which would have priority. Wimmer stated that we'd have to give precedent to the Isanti group because it's Isanti funded. Zdon asked if Heavenly Sunshine is in one yet; Everett stated that they're signed up for Secret Life of Pets. Garvey asked if we'd need to bring it back to the board to change the rules; Everett stated we would. Garvey said that we should do that so the rules are more clear, and we should also have some sort of a deadline. Everett stated when the rules were established we didn't have groups every time, but it's nice to give groups time to advertise and get people excited about it. Waiting to the last minute isn't great for anyone. Everett said that she'll bring the rules back in February.

Everett explained that the Street Dance bands have been booked. June 23rd we'll have Maiden Dixie, July 14 Jonah and the Whales are coming back, and August 11, which is also Celebrate Isanti, we'll have Bad Girlfriends. We have all of those contracts and we're getting them paid, so the bands are good to go. Everett explained that all of the bands have websites, so the board can go listen to them.

Everett explained that Celebrate Isanti is August 11, and all of the main events will be the same with the 5K run/walk and family bike ride. We'll have the kids festival in Bluebird Park; we bring in County Public Safety people, we'll work on having some Public Works people there as well this year with some of their big equipment to show people what keeps the town running that people never see, as well as lots of the community groups. We'll also have the car show with Rum River Rods going on on Main Street, and the Street Dance to close out the event. Hopefully we continue to grow each of the parts of that event from year to year too.

Everett stated that she is starting a new program each month called Curious Creatures. We had been having the first Saturday of every month Nature Detectives meet over at the Community Center. We tried it for 3 or 4 years and it just wasn't catching on; people are super busy on Saturdays. Everett is going to try a parent/child program and put it in the parks. We'll get people at our parks, and it kind of opens up

the nature world too to be able to do some really cool things while we're in the parks. Those will rotate between Bluebird Park, River Bluff Preserve, and Mattson Park so they're kind of distributed around town so they're easy for different people to get to as well. The program is free for Isanti residents. Winter is a hard sell to get people to come outside, so it might take a while to get this going.

Everett stated that the job posting for the Parks Intern is up on the website now. We're looking for a college student who is interested in going into Recreation Management or Parks and Rec field, or a communications person would be great to help with marketing. They'll help with all of the things Everett does in the summer. They'll help with parks maintenance at the community garden, inspections of the playgrounds, helping at events, farmers' market, etc. That person will be very busy.

Everett stated that we are very close to finally getting Academy Park. She checked in earlier today and they are waiting for someone from Highland Bank to give them the okay to go ahead with the title. We will hopefully get there very soon. Everett stated that something that didn't make it onto the list was that we have to update the portable bathroom contract this year, and she needs to know if we'll put one at Academy Park. Johnson stated that there isn't a bathroom accessible to the public anywhere over there. Wimmer stated that it's a public park so we'll need to have one. Zdon asked if there are any portables in any of the parks right now. Everett and Wimmer stated that there are not. Everett explained that we pull them out the end of October, usually before Halloween. Zdon said that he's had some people ask him why there's never any in the winter. Everett stated that she doesn't know that they'd get used enough to justify having them out there, and they may freeze. Zdon stated that when they use them at work they don't freeze because of the chemicals. He just asked because he's gotten the question before. Everett stated that in the winter, the board can direct people to the public restrooms at Bluebird on the Indoor Arena because those are open.

Everett explained that we just had the goal setting meeting. Staff gave an update to Council that the dog park is partly budgeted this year and we're planning to finish budgeting for that in 2019. One of the Council members also asked us to look into potentially getting a sledding hill somewhere in the City. He mentioned Bluebird Park. The City is very flat, but we may also look at the hill that's at the soccer complex. The top of that hill are our retention ponds so there may be some challenges there as well. Wimmer stated that we will not be doing it Bluebird, but he stated that he was brainstorming with the City Administrator and City Attorney after the meeting about different locations. The original proposal for Bluebird wouldn't be feasible because we'd need so many changes. He stated that we could potentially take a look at the area at River Bluff near the stairs. We'd first have to see if the DNR would allow us to do it. It's got a nice hill for sledding and a flat clearing so you don't hit anything at the bottom. The other locations have differing logistical issues that way. Obviously we'd need to have enough snow. Witte stated that it's a very steep hill. Wimmer agreed and stated we'd have to have a path that was obviously cleared. But we'd have to look at any erosion issues, and again if the DNR would let us do it. The only area we totally control would be off of the ponds at Public Works, but that goes down into the soccer fields, so they'd have to be okay with what may or may not happen to the fields. Zdon stated that it's a pretty good hill there but at the top there's no where to go because of the fence. Wimmer stated that we used to have one at the middle school as well as a skating rink, but the school said they didn't want any of that stuff there anymore.

Garvey stated that she had a couple of questions. Going back to the Street Dances, when Everett advertises when she says what band it is does it ever say what type of music genre? Everett said no, they're typically advertised as a group in any paid advertising. That's kind of the most efficient way to do that so we just list band titles. Everett stated the sponsor that creates the big flyers takes the band's marketing things and creates those and you can usually get an idea from that what type of music they are, but that's the most specific we usually get. Wimmer stated that so many of the bands that we get are also such a cross over, the country groups still play some rock and that type of thing.

Witte stated that he wasn't sure who maintains the Bike/Walk Trail, but he's been trying to run over there lately but there's always snow and ice. Wimmer stated that we don't plow it, and that's on purpose. One reason is so that people could ski or snowshoe; the other is that from a maintenance stand point, snowmobiles aren't allowed but if someone did drive across it they would damage it.

Garvey stated that she had one other question, going back to the intern. She asked if Everett had gone to any of the universities or anything like that. Everett stated that she hasn't done anything yet, it just went up the end of last week. Garvey stated she didn't know if that's something they've done in the past; Everett stated that we can definitely do it. Wimmer stated that this is our first Park and Rec intern, but we've done marketing interns before.

Johnson asked who we have that maintains the ice rink for the public. Everett answered Public Works.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Witte, second by Johnson to adjourn the November 28, 2017 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board. Motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 23rd day of January, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,



Katie Everett
Community Events and Parks Coordinator