

**CITY OF ISANTI
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 27, 2020**

Call to Order: Aaron Zdon - Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Members Present: James Witte, Aaron Zdon, Council Member Jimmy Gordon, Michael Becker

Staff Present: Jenny Garvey - Parks, Recreation and Culture Manager

Motion to approve the agenda motioned by Witte, seconded by Gordon with modification of swearing in new board member. Motion passed 3-0

2. Meeting Minutes: Motion by Witte; second by Gordon to approve meeting Minutes from August 25, 2020. Motion passed 4-0.

3. Public Hearing: Dan Balk – 411 Hillock St NE – came to request for the city to add pickleball lines to existing tennis courts, in particular Mattson tennis courts. Mike Mueller resident of Cambridge also came to speak about pickleball, and is President of the Cambridge Area Pickleball Assc, a non-profit group which promotes healthy living, with 140 members, and has several areas in Cambridge and Isanti that they can play indoor and outdoor. Pickleball is played on a court surface and is similar to tennis, however the court itself is smaller and a different net and equipment is used. 20x44 is the court size, other outdoor courts in the surrounding area have line for pickleball use. Zdon asked how many people in the league and that the board has discussed this in the past. Witte asked if there has been push back regarding to the different lines on the courts and any confusion regarding playing. Mueller replied that in Cambridge there are dedicated courts for pickleball, at this area there is not. Zdon asked for clarification of what is preferred, and Balk reiterated that they are interested in having lines on a court for practice. Zdon stated that Whisper Ridge is one option to add lines or to add at other court areas. Witte added that we would have to consider resurfacing Whisper Ridge. Zdon stated that this is something that the board has discussed and will have to make some decisions in the very near future and what the future of that area will be. Mueller added that 4 courts can be on a tennis court, if they are placed sideways on the tennis court. Gordon asked the cost of adding lines or courts to, Mueller added that it was about \$11,000 which involved new courts and lines. He was not aware what the cost of just adding lines would be to a court. Mueller added that Cambridge added the courts into their street project. Balk added that the lines would be a narrow line to be added, a temporary tape option that could be added. Zdon and Witte added that is something that we can look into. Zdon asked if Balk was familiar with Whisper Ridge and added that parking is very limited and only on street parking is available. Zdon would like to see Mattson as the option. Mueller added that Badminton court lines is the same as pickleball court lines. Motion by Witte for staff to research further on the pickleball court option at either Mattson or Whisper Ridge, seconded by Becker. Motion passed: 4-0

4. New Development Concept Review – Garvey reviewed that a new housing development is being proposed on the east side of Hwy 65, just northeast of the Arts and Science Middle School off of Cajima and 7th Ave NE. The developer met with city staff and has provided a preliminary concept for the PRC board to review, in particular to the park area. The attachments include the proposed park areas for this preliminary proposed development. This is being brought to the PRC Board in the very early steps in the process for review. Garvey added that staff's recommendation is to not accept the land for park dedication and a fee credit. Staff views this land as unusable for the city. Garvey added asked does the PRC Board accept recommending the land/area's as part of their Park Dedication within this new proposed housing development? Garvey added that when a new development is added to the city an option is for park dedication land or a fee based on each lot in

that development, which is \$1,500 per lot, and in this development of about 160 lot could be about \$224,000 in park dedication fund fees. Garvey added that the two areas being proposed, the larger area of about 12 acres is wetland area and the almost 3 acres is unknown at this time as staff has not gone to this area to view. Zdon asked for clarification on the area and that the current Academy Park is just to the south of this development and just east of the Arts and Science Middle School. Zdon also added that he would not want to accept this land area, especially if they are wetland, and that we would put a park in the north area of the development and close to an existing park and this size development to have some type of park. Zdon asked staff to remind all what Park dedication funds can be used for. Garvey added that the funds can be used for anything new, it cannot be used on any maintenance or existing, anything that is new, land acquisitions or capital improvements. It can be used for capital improvement and purchasing new land. Zdon asked what the balance of the Park dedication fund amount was... Garvey was not sure what the balance was at and didn't want to provide something that was incorrect. Zdon asked if the new Legacy development was platted years ago. Garvey added that the development fees would be current as they are just adding those now. Gordon added that staff is suggesting that staff is recommending to not accept either of these parcels and asked for reiteration. Garvey added that the park dedication fee is \$1,500 per lot and with this potentially to be about \$224,000 with the approximate 160 lots vs the land being proposed for park area. Gordon added that does the north area to be used for the park, and Zdon added that he didn't want to offset the fees provided over the land. Witte asked about the pond areas within the proposal and specific areas they would like to see a park area. Zdon reiterated that he would rather have the fee's over the land area being proposed so we could build them a park. Motion by Gordon to not accept the land in exchange for the fees, seconded by Witte. Motion passed 4-0.

5. Fir Street Update- Garvey explained that at the July 28 meeting staff reviewed an update on this item and that staff has been able to gather more information from the state on these two parcels. After further information gathering from the state it has been determined that the city has 15 years from the 2015 purchase to have these parcels as a completed park. The planning process will need to continue and staff will bring this back to a future meeting for more detailed planning, and it was brought to the board in 2018 and will revamp it at a future meeting and will discuss this at that time. Zdon added that this area could use park dedication funds for this park.

6. Sledding Hill Rules Signage- Garvey reviewed that the sledding hill was completed in October by Public Works in Bluebird Park. Staff had researched other communities' rules and the League of Mn Cities signage rules and has included a draft rule sign. Staff is recommending to have two signs back to back be installed on an existing 4x4 post close to the flag in the northwest corner of the park, which would be adjacent to the sledding hill. One sign would face the street corner and one sign would face the hillside. The draft rules are as follows: 1. Users assume risk of injury, 2. Adults must supervise children, 3. Use caution, 4. Be considerate of others, 5. Do not sled when icy, 6. Do not alter sledding hill and 7. Sled in designated areas only. The sign would be about 18" by 18". Witte asked about combining rule 3 and 4. Becker added that something should be added about horseplay. Witte added sledding prohibited when icy as an option and walk up the side of the hill. Witte added would the hill be open during daylight hours only. Zdon added that during park hours. Garvey added that it would be open during park hours, but it is not lite. Witte added to have it as during daylight hours only. Gordon added that its dark after 5. Witte asked about the type of items to sled with and asked about ski's or snowboard. Are we allowing that? Gordon and Zdon added why not, Zdon stated we would be snowboarding down the hill. Zdon added to watch up the hill, for people coming down the hill. Some type of language to add. Gordon reiterated that the side of the hill verbiage was good and asked if this was run by the city attorney. Garvey added that it was run by League of Mn Cities and past city attorney, but has not by the new attorney, and Gordon

added that it may not be necessary. Witte added about the alterations and adding to that more. Zdon added that the signs need to be made quickly. Zdon agreed to combine 3 and 4 to walk on side and watch those coming down type of language and to add at bottom Have Fun, the most important rule for a sledding hill and Gordon agreed to add it. Witte asked about parking close by. Motion by Witte, seconded by Becker to adjust rules and to combine 3 and 4, walk alongside hill and to have fun. Motion passed 4-0.

7. Tree Plan- Update- Garvey reviewed that staff was able to research and find the original Bluebird Park development plans along with the tree plan that was started and then stopped in 2009, as a result of the economy at that time. The tree plan was just for Bluebird Park and did not include any of the other city parks. The PRC board discussed the Bluebird Park tree plan again in 2015, which they approved staff to move forward with again for Bluebird Park by contacting a college student or arborist to assist with this project. There was also direction to accept donated trees from a local business to be used for parks. A few trees are still at PW growing but not quite ready to be transplanted to a park and they are still small. A plan has not been developed. Staff will continue to work on developing a plan, along with budget/costs and bring this item back to the board in 2021 for further direction and attached was the original tree plan and there are some areas that were crossed off on the plan for trees that were planted and many trees that were planted did not survive.

8. Department Updates – Garvey reviewed that Curious Creatures was held on September 15 at Isanti Hills Neighborhood Park with 15 kids with a Back to School theme and on October 6 17 kids at Isanti Community Center with a Police/Fire theme the police department send two officers to talk about safety and hand out goodie bags to the kids and the fire department dropped off goodie bags with fire hats for staff to hand out as they couldn't make it. The last Street Dance was held September 12 with The Farmer's Daughters. The event went well with about 400 in attendance, which was lower than expected with the Rum River National Race in town, but the pandemic health issue that surrounds us I feel is still affecting attendance for events. The dog park has the new plaque in place for the donation from the Rotary Club of Cambridge & Isanti. Garvey continued that Bluebird Park had the tunnel piece that was damaged earlier in the summer replaced, along with Rum River Meadows swing bracket replaced. The swings are back up. Isanti Family Farmers Market is done for the season as of September 25. Staff conducted a short wrap up meeting after the last day and the vendors mentioned they enjoyed the season and did well, especially consider how 2020 has been. Family Day was September 27 at Legacy Park with self-guided nature hikes, smores and a photo booth were the day's events. We also had a prize drawing this year with items that were from the medallion hunt we had an overwhelming response from. C-I Hockey Assc. (Jumping Jack's, Wintergreens and Pizza Pub gift certificate) – value \$150; Coborn's Marketplace - \$50 gift certificate; CMK Financial Services gift basket – value \$60; Connexus Energy gift basket - value \$100; Isanti Physical Therapy massage gift certificate – value \$80; Rockstad and Co. Relics & Wares gift basket – value \$35. Thank you to these generous local businesses/organizations for supporting our community. Staff handed out 60 tickets to people coming to the Family Day event. Three prizes remain to be picked up, those not picked up by the November 1 deadline, will be drawn at the upcoming movie nights. The community garden closed up October 18 for the season. Sunflowers were planted this past summer and will remain in the garden until next spring for birds and animals to enjoy a meal during the winter months. Our upcoming events are; sledding hill grand opening TBD, Movie Nights will be limited to 15 families until restrictions update on November 6 – The Mighty Ducks 2, December 11 – The Polar Express along with Santa Visit 5-6:45pm and limited to 25 families for the timing with amount of families we can accommodate in that time frame. The Candy Cane Flashlight Hunt will be Sunday December 13 from 5-6:30pm at

Legacy Park; Curious Creatures for November 10 – Gobble, Gobble and December 8 – Santa Fun at Isanti Community Center. Witte asked when the dock would be removed as he noticed it last week when he was there and Garvey added that it was removed late last week.

9. Tobacco Free Policy Review – Garvey reviewed that the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2013-158, which established a Tobacco Free Park Policy. The Council had approved that all youth playground areas, picnic shelters or park buildings, and organized sporting areas, complexes, and facilities located on City-owned park land be included under the policy. A copy of the Resolution and policy has been attached. All city parks and grounds have the specific tobacco free signs or parks signage that states no tobacco use or no tobacco products. Ordinance 295 went in to affect in 2014 which states Smoking on municipal property prohibited. No person shall smoke a cigarette, cigar, pipe or other lighted tobacco-related device, or use a nicotine or lobelia delivery device or other electronic delivery device, or chew or otherwise use tobacco within any municipally owned building or municipally owned vehicle, within or without the City of Isanti municipal limits. The Ordinance will supersede the policy. Staff is requesting for the PRC board to review the policy and provide staff direction of any changes they see are needed and does the PRC Board want to include language that covers parking lots or other specific areas to the ordinance? Gordon and Zdon discussed that the parking lot does not need to be included into the language and should be left as is and technically the parking lot is included in the current language as its written. Motion by Witte and seconded by Becker to approve the Tobacco Free Policy as it is written and not changes.

Adjournment: Motion by Gordon, second by Witte to adjourn the October 27, 2020 meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Board. Motion passed 4-0, meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.



Respectfully Submitted
Jenny Garvey
Parks, Recreation and Culture Manager