

**CITY OF ISANTI
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
November 22, 2016
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, Mayor Wimmer, James Witte, and Aaron Zdon

Staff Present: Katie Everett, Community Events and Parks Coordinator

D. Agenda Modifications.

Zdon asked if there were any agenda modifications. There were none.

Motion by Garvey, second by Witte to approve the November 22, 2016 Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Agenda. Motion was unanimously approved.

2. Approval of Minutes from October 25, 2016 Parks, Recreation and Culture Board Meeting.

Motion by Wimmer. Second by Garvey. Vote was unanimously approved.

3. Community Garden 2017 Handbook

Everett explained that she took what we had from 2016 and put a picture of our real garden on it and updated some of the things that we talked about last time and put in new dates. One point that she wanted to highlight that was changed was on the wordy side [of the brochure] under “Community gardeners will”: “maintain their plots through the end of the season and arrange for care of plots during vacation or other extended absence. In the event that a plot can no longer be maintained, gardeners will notify the City of Isanti as soon as possible” and that was to cover if somebody were to be done in July, we’d have this to say that it’s yours to be taken care of until the end of the season. Everett said that if that goes with what the board was thinking she will keep it in there. Garvey agreed that it was. Everett stated that she updated the dates for the season; staff had talked about ending the season a little bit earlier next year because we ran into frost and things this year, and people were done for the most part at the beginning of October. Everett put in the handbook that the season would end October 15th next year. We didn’t have a ton of people that just grew pumpkins or anything that they would be waiting for; Everett doesn’t see a lot of people being upset about not having those extra couple weeks, and it makes more sense for having running water end at that time. Zdon agreed.

Everett stated that on the cover page, all of those dates are updated. Council did approve the registration period that the board discussed so that is set. Everett stated the kick-off party will be the pre-season meeting, and everyone can get together and we’ll go over rules and that kind of thing, but a party sounded like more fun than a meeting, so hopefully people come. The first day to garden and last day to garden are listed there too. The gardeners also talked about doing more gatherings and those kinds of things during the summer, but Everett stated that if that’s something she is going to coordinate, she’ll do surveys to see when people can come after they’re registered so that it’s not just something she makes up and then no one can come. Those will be to be determined. Prices are the same; the rest of the rules are all the same.

Everett asked Mayor Wimmer if this should go to Council to get approved as well. Wimmer stated that it should. Garvey motioned to have the amended handbook brought to Council for approval, Wimmer seconded; the motion was unanimously approved.

4. Parks Updates

Everett stated that the second movie night was very snowy, but 32 people came. Garvey stated that was very good turnout for that night. Everett stated we had more people come to that one than the first one, and it was great to see all of those people come. The next movie is Elf and South Isanti Baptist Youth Group will be coming in to run that one. Everett stated that it's a great December movie so we should have a good turnout; they have invited a bunch of people on our Facebook event and that kind of thing too.

Everett stated that she and Mayor Wimmer went to the Bike Isanti County meeting, and the purpose of that meeting was to select who was going to do the master plan. They had a couple of proposals come in and the group weighed pros and cons of those. The committee chose one that has to go to the County Board for approval. Part of that process is going to be County staff making sure they have money for the proposal that the committee selected; they have the majority of it, but there definitely is a gap in funding there that they need to come up with. Wimmer stated that the proposal that was selected, he thought the County staff might have been leaning toward the other proposal because it was cheaper, but they only had one public meeting. The proposal that was selected has a meeting in each of the three cities, has more input from the public, it costs more, but there's more work to do and it's a good proposal that brings in a lot of public input, and hopefully the County Board will go with that recommendation. Everett stated that she did talk to them at the end of the meeting and it sounded like the county board will accept it as long as they find the money to cover it.

Wimmer stated that he had two updates. Council has goal setting in January, and there are two items from PRC that will be going there. One will be the dog park and the other is the outdoor hockey rink to see if there is commitment to either, and then making that a goal for Council to make that happen. He will let the board know if February.

Everett stated that she has been working with Josi [Public Services Director] on some inspection forms for each of the parks. There had been some started, but not really in a helpful way. It was a really long list that in most of our parks only a few of things apply. Everett has gone through the standard list and made it applicable to each of our parks, so it will be a checklist that she or someone from Public Works can go through every month to make sure things are being kept up and we don't end up with a big list of surprises again. That doesn't mean that things that are found will be budgeted, so there may still be discussions that need to be had, but at least we'll know more regularly what's going on and what needs to be replaced. That is a work in progress.

Everett stated that the Parks Brochure is coming. Basically, we'll just have to start over the next couple of months finding bands and scheduling them for Street Dances and getting programs for next year set. As far as she knows, that won't need to be done until the beginning of February so we have some time to work on it, but she wanted to put it on the Board's radar.

Everett stated that in discussions with other staff, the Arts and Science Academy is making some progress. We don't have anything finalized with them yet, but it sounds like wheels are turning, and hopefully we can get agreements settled so that things can move forward. Wimmer stated that they have their planning done, but it doesn't look like they're going to build a gymnasium that they were looking at initially so we are looking at doing something with the lot so we can split that off and put it to their existing primary lot. They are looking at doing a middle school, and then eventually a high school at

some point. They are moving forward on the park portion that we had discussed with them, but they have a couple of irons in the fire.

Everett stated that the Bluebird climbing equipment is here, but she hasn't gotten a hold of the guy from St. Croix who is supposed to come and put it back up. She asked if the board would be okay with it being put up in the spring so it doesn't just sit out there all winter, she doesn't know how much it gets used in the winter. If it makes sense to put it in next spring we can. The ground is not that frozen yet, so if we want to put it in now, she can get in touch with him. Wimmer stated he would recommend waiting until spring. Garvey agreed. Everett stated that she'll let them know, and she'll tell them to plan on being here as soon as it is spring to get it put back up.

Everett stated that the last thing she has is the vehicle traffic issue at Legacy. She had a map to pass around that shows what we're thinking needs to be done. We'll have a gate installed at the end of where the pavement is right now, and because of the easements that we're using, we'll have to tell people to use that access road to get in. The map shows where we will ask them to walk. Part of the process will be having Bolton and Menk redo the trail map for us so it shows that, so there is a cost involved with that as well. We'll need to make sure that we have sources for the funding for the engineering and for getting the equipment for the gate. Once we have that, in the springtime we can put the gate in. Everett passed the map around and explained that the ponds that are out there belong to the City so if people go about halfway up the road, there is already an easement. Wimmer stated that it is an access easement to the stormwater ponds for when the area gets built out. He explained that we tried for a while to get a closer in to where most people are walking, but we do have an access easement that will serve as our designated trail. The bank has kind of just shut down on working with us, and we aren't exactly sure why, but it is what it is at this point.

Everett stated that the only other thing she had was a letter for Zdon because his term is expiring at the end of the year. The opening has been posted.

Zdon stated that there is no meeting in December; Everett confirmed.

5. Adjournment

Motion by Wimmer, second by Witte to adjourn the November 22, 2016 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board. Motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 22nd day of November, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,



Katie Everett
Community Events and Parks Coordinator