

**CITY OF ISANTI  
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
November 24, 2015**

**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:** Jamie Bergwick, Lynn True, Mayor Wimmer and Aaron Zdon

**Members Absent:** Maddie Anderson, Jennifer Garvey (both gave prior notice)

**Staff Present:** Josi Wood, Public Services Director

**D. Agenda Modifications.**

Zdon asked if there were any.

Wimmer stated he would cover rink items during the priority list items.

There were none. Motion by Wimmer. Second by True.

**2. Approval of Minutes from October 27, 2015 Park, Recreation and Culture Board Meeting.**

Motion to approve the agenda and minutes by Wimmer. Second by Bergwick. Vote was unanimously approved.

**3. Public Hearing**

None.

**4. Discussion on Prioritizing Replacement/Repair Items – Subcommittee Report**

Zdon stated that he and True met to prioritize the list. Zdon stated that they listed the top ten items. He noted that the sand at the Tot Lot should be addressed and budgeted within the next two years. Zdon read the items in order of what should be addressed first:

- 1) Fix or replace aluminum bench ends at Mattson and VFW
- 2) Replace tube slide bottom at Totlot
- 3) Rubber coatings on the chains and benches
- 4) Skate park – cracked panels, missing screws and sinking into asphalt
- 5) Remove and replace grills at Mattson and add ADA ones
- 6) Replace 90 degree angle slide on toddler equipment at Rum River Meadows
- 7) Add in an ADA swing at Mattson
- 8) Add signs to Totlot and Whisper Ridge. Maintenance to existing fading signs
- 9) Add mats to the bottom of slides
- 10) Edging maintenance

Zdon stated there was other random maintenance items that he believed would already be being addressed so it wasn't in the top 10. Zdon also added it would be nice to have a soccer or some sort of field marked out at Mattson

Wimmer stated he wanted to go over the hockey rink. He stated we have been thinking about different options. The cost to maintain the ice is between \$5000-\$7000 with including labor and time. It doesn't

include water which is the single most cost expensive item to maintain it. Just to compare to Legacy Park's maintenance. We have a couple hours here and there so we're talking about a couple hundred bucks to maintain something for a much longer time. Wimmer stated we were trying to come up with some creative ways for alternatives. One option was to take the \$5000 and buy ice time at the arena and have open public skating. There weren't any hours available. Wimmer stated he spoke with someone from youth hockey and they said they took as many hours as they could because the Owls are not there anymore. The arena is looking to have another semi-pro team next year but in the meantime the youth hockey will take all the hours they can get. The person stated that we can take the boards off the rink. Another thing that has been popular is to have half rinks for 3 on 3, etc. Wimmer stated that we probably do have enough to do a half rink but the boards are still in rough shape. Wimmer stated that we will need to address the boards and possibly look at having new boards to create a half rink. Wimmer stated another possibility is to not have the hockey rink. People need to understand that it is open ice. You can't have 4 people saying we are playing hockey so you cannot be on it. There were a couple instances last year with people being told they couldn't play because of hockey. Wimmer stated we can't have people taking over the ice. It is free skating. Then with the idea of free skating, does it make sense to have it posted as a hockey rink? Should it be free skating ice? Wimmer stated he doesn't feel qualified to answer that question but it is a question that should be asked.

Bergwick stated that there has been times she was told that they couldn't use the rink and had to go to the puddle [pleasure] rink because they were using the hockey rink.

Wood stated that it wouldn't be safe to have both hockey and free skating on the rink.

True asked what the difference is. Is it that there are no pucks allowed on the pleasure rink.

Everyone stated yes.

Wood stated that you can see how even open skating would prefer the hockey rink because it would be better ice and there is something to hold onto.

Wimmer stated so if we want to have it be open skate, we can't have it be a hockey rink because pucks would be wizzing by and someone could get hit. Wimmer stated you can't have some people use it and others not.

Bergwick stated that if it's for free skating you don't need to maintain it to be hockey ice.

Wimmer stated then why are we maintaining it for hockey.

Zdon stated there must be some sort of sock tube that can be put around so you can flood without the boards. In the spring it would be stored by PW and then the concrete could be a skate park.

Wimmer stated that would be a question if we do a half rink, is there enough room to do a skate park next to it. I don't know that answer but you could have your equipment there and get more use out of the area.

Zdon stated the problem with using it as a skate park, is that it does have water that sits there, but if there were not boards, more of the water would run off. You could probably drill holes to let the water go out in the summer. It could be a year-round use of that slap.

Wimmer stated his whole question is that if we are not going to use it as a hockey rink, why are we spending thousands of dollars maintaining it to be that.

True asked how much hockey use does it get compared to free skating.

Bergwick stated it can just be three or so kids slapping pucks around.

Zdon stated it did get a lot of use last year as it was a good year. There were also people on the pleasure rink. Would we keep both?

Wimmer stated we would keep the pleasure rink. Wimmer stated Staff has been asked questions on whether or not the hockey rink can be reserved for playing hockey and we're not going to have that.

Wimmer and the Board shared concern if there were people playing hockey and you came up to free skate. The question was asked if people can ask them to stop.

Wimmer stated we have a pleasure rink because we have a hockey rink. Wimmer shared how the pleasure rink started at the Middle school and the hockey rink because of the agreement with the youth hockey association.

Wimmer stated that if the PRC Board and Council want to have a hockey rink just for hockey than that is one thing, but if it's just for skating than it shouldn't be called a hockey rink.

Zdon stated that they could than just flood the area where the pleasure rink is.

Wood stated it is much easier to maintain that rink.

Wimmer stated he wished Garvey was here since she knows about this as being a hockey mom. Wimmer asked what is the point of having the boards if you're not playing hockey?

More discussion on the question as to whether the rink should be a hockey rink and if sticks are allowed.

Zdon stated he would like to have rinks by the old vision wake area since that is closer to the warming house. He stated it would take some planning to having it there and moving the lights

True stated she thought that was the plan.

Wimmer stated that that original area was slated for a baseball field.

More discussion about having the rinks up on the old vision wake area.

Zdon asked if the boards [kick plates] were removed.

Wood stated yes, and the repairs were done. However, there was more damage seen after the boards were removed.

Wimmer recapped the conversation about needing to ask the question as to whether or not the city wants to have this as a hockey rink and incur the costs associated with that. He reminded the Board that the only reason we had it in the first place was because of the hockey association.

Zdon stated he would like to see the discussion continue and see what kind of usage it gets over the winter. Then to make a game plan over the summer for next winter.

Small discussion about having rinks up by the warming house occurred.

Motion to authorize repairing items on the PRC Subcommittee list as funds become available by Wimmer. Second by Bergwick.

**5. Approved Acquisition of Parcels 605 and 607 Fir St SW**

Wood stated that the city acquired parcels 605 and 607 Fir St SW with a conditional use deed. Wood stated as was worded in the conditional use deed, we have three years to use them as a public park space with a sports amenity such as a tennis court, volleyball area, etc.

Zdon asked if it had to be one of those three only. Could there be a playground?

Wood stated it could be something other but it was listed in the application that we would use it as a public area with sports amenity.

True asked if the Board needed to decide what should be done and what kind of amenity.

Wood stated that it would need to be brought up for discussion sometime next year as to determine a plan within the next three years.

**6. Warming House Rules**

Wood stated that we do not have a rule sign so she was looking for an action to have one made. She stated she would have one posted on the outside and inside.

Discussion was held to determine the verbiage.

Motion by True to have warming house signs made. Second by Bergwick.

**7. Update to Farmers Market Imaging**

As staff moves forward with having new signs made for the farmers market, staff asked to create a new logo to make it more eye catching and modern.

Motion by True to create a new logo. Second by Wimmer.

**8. Adjournment**

Motion by Wimmer, second by Bergwick to adjourn the November 24, 2015 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board. Motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 24<sup>th</sup> day of November 2015.  
Respectfully submitted,

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Josi Wood, Public Services Director