

**CITY OF ISANTI  
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
November 28, 2017  
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

D. Agenda Modifications.

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

Motion by Garvey, second by Wimmer to approve the November 28, 2017 Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Agenda. Motion was unanimously approved.

**2. Approval of Minutes from October 24, 2017 Parks, Recreation and Culture Board Meeting.**

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

**3. Park Signs**

Everett explained that she has included the final draft of the bike/walk sign and it printed correctly this time so Bluebird Park and the parking areas are a different pattern. She also added in the mile markers. If there are any other thoughts on this one, she asked to let her know or she would order this one. Zdon asked if there was a motion needed; Everett said no. Everett stated that there is also a double sided sign on the trail as you're leaving Isanti that she'll order so it matches and we'll get those at the same time.

Everett stated that there is some additional money left, and when we initially started talking about doing this the board had talked about leaving the Legacy sign because eventually there will a parking area right up by the park. She stated that she talked with Public Services Director Wood and Public Works has had to fix that sign more often than Everett thought, and every time we have to replace the sign inside we have to pay to get it laminated. It would make a lot of sense to replace it, and Public Works is very confident that they could move it if we need to do that even before we need to replace it again. She stated that she brought in the sign we just ordered for River Bluff to have a map there. She thought it would make a lot of sense, because these are two of our most similar parks, to have their signage match. We can do something very similar, and she attached a draft. At River Bluff we have a bunch of different colored loops in the brochure that are listed on the bottom of that sign. At Legacy, she included the tables and benches on that lower portion. Additionally we would have the same big sign that's at all of our parks. Wimmer stated that he wanted to have on the list of things that at Legacy no bikes are allowed either, there is a smaller sign there, but we need it on the big sign as well because that is something that sets it apart from the other parks. Everett asked to clarify which sign that should go on; Wimmer stated the big sign at the gate. Everett asked if there were other thoughts on this. She stated that we will install it at the exact same place where the current sign is. If we want to get multiples of the map sign we can, but Everett stated she was just envisioning that by the gate as well. Zdon asked to clarify that there are funds still available for these; Everett confirmed that there are. Garvey said she liked the idea of Legacy matching

the River Bluff one. Zdon agreed and said the River Bluff one looks nice. Johnson asked if we will be putting cityofisanti.us on the Legacy sign as well. We have it on the bike path one, so shouldn't we continue doing that – or is there not that big of a rules sheet for Legacy versus the walking path? Everett stated that we haven't done that on the others and explained that we have a sign at most of the parks with an abbreviated list of rules and she doesn't think those have the rules on them. Zdon said that it may be a good idea moving forward to have it on every sign, it's a good idea. It doesn't have to be anything big, just in a corner somewhere. Everett stated that she can do that, and will get them ordered. At this point, new signs will go up in the spring.

#### **4. River Bluff Preserve Erosion Control Project Update**

Everett stated that the agenda packet has a bunch of pictures of what the project looked like. This was something that the Isanti Soil and Water office approached us to do with some other projects that they had going on on the Rum River. They had kind of helped out as we planned where our steps were going to go and that kind of thing last year, so we made the connection with them in that park in that process. They did a whole bunch of these; the Anoka and Isanti offices worked together on a bunch of these. She wanted to say that it was around 40 of them, but ours was the only one they did on public land. It's kind of a cool opportunity for us to show what has been going on, and it was super cheap for us to have that work done. She just received the invoice today and it was even under what we expected by about \$250. She did get an email today that they will be doing a little more work on Friday. They are going to take one more tree down to put in there, so there will be a little more length in there than what's done right now.

Everett explained that the project involves taking cut down cedar trees – at this point those are dead and eventually will turn brown – but while they're there they slow down the river and collect sediment to rebuild the bank. They planted lots of trees in there that will make it green again, and then by the time the cedar trees have totally decayed those live trees will take over stabilizing. It's kind of a cool project, and it will be fun to watch that process as it goes forward.

Because it is on public land, and it kind of looks like there's something weird going on there, it's a good opportunity to post a sign to let people know what the project is. Everett explained that the board has copies of the sign options. The horizontal one would be more of the panel style interpretive sign that's kind of at an angle that you stand in front of it. The other one would be the same size the River Bluff map sign. Everett thought it would be kind of cool if they used the smaller size we could make it double sided so you could see it from the river because you can obviously see the project from the river. Eventually there will be trees in the way, but in the meantime we can do some education as people are going by too. That style is much lower cost, and would be much cheaper to replace in the future. A panel one is really nice looking. Everett stated that these are very rough drafts, but wanted to show what kind of information could fit on both. There should be enough money to do either style at this point. Zdon stated that he likes the idea of a two sided, and it matches the same style as the other signs. It's cool to be able to come down the river and see the sign too. Everett stated that we could put it on a little bit nicer post as well. Garvey stated that the only comment she has is that the horizontal sign says 10 years and it has the completed year, but the smaller one doesn't. That would be her only suggestion so that in five years, when nobody knows when it started, it's on the sign. Zdon agreed to add something like "Completed in 2017" in a corner – and our website. Johnson asked for clarification on which sign option would be the panel one, and which you would see coming down the river; Everett explained that it was the smaller vertical one. Everett explained that the panel size would be kind of the same as what's downtown – there are some that are kind of the same idea with historical facts, this would just be a little different style. Everett explained that the smaller one would be a lot easier to replace if something happened to it. Zdon stated that he would prefer only one or the other there; Everett agreed that they would only do one of the options. Zdon said he liked the two sided option. Johnson, Garvey, and Witte agreed.

#### **5. 2017 Project Review**

Everett stated that she wanted to give the board a rundown of the things that were accomplished in 2017. It was a busy year and there were a lot of things going on, so this definitely not a comprehensive list. The community garden went really well again; we added the new shed so next year we won't have to have a new shed again, and we got the shade out there which was super nice to have, and we got new hoses and more raised beds. We have replaced almost all of the sand play surfaces at our city parks now; VFW still has sand but we replaced Mattson and Isanti Hills this year. She stated that if the board hadn't been out to Isanti Hills to see the makeover yet, it looks really, really good. We've gotten comments from people who live in that neighborhood who are excited to see that things are happening there. We relocated the skate park equipment – when they did that, they replaced at least most if not all of the substrate underneath. It was a composite board that was cracked in a lot of places. They also replaced many of the panels too. There are a couple spots that we will keep an eye out for and replace those as needed, but everything is in pretty good shape for now. We did get timers installed at the ballfield at Unity Park and at Bluebird Park. By the end of this year, Public Works will have repainted all of our tables. The replacement parts for the Legacy tables and benches are coming in. They're already repaired a couple of benches, and will be fixing tables too. We have redesigned all of our signs and are getting those replaced. Passport to Parks had a great first year, and Celebrate Isanti was started this year as well. Additionally, there were some replacements in the parks as needed. We had a couple of weird things break this year, but we've been able to get all of that stuff fixed. And finally, we moved the farmers market which was a really good thing that we got a lot of good feedback on.

Wimmer asked Everett to give an update on the school with their part of the garden. Everett stated that the school had a lot of trouble over the summer maintaining their part of the garden. They have met now and are still trying to decide what they're going to do this year. They are looking for less responsibility. She stated that we have been approached by Isanti County Public Health and they are interested in starting a program at the garden as well, so we might divide that space and be able to make that more productive. The school is thinking about having something on site so it's easier for them to get to. If they do that, they probably don't need both of those spaces. That is still kind of in the works, but they probably won't be using as much space next year. They'll have to decide pretty soon for their curriculum planning too. Wimmer asking if a local resident was maintaining their area this year. Wimmer stated there was a little bit of that, and there's been a lot of turnover in the year round program especially at MNC. The teachers that are there now are completely different than two years ago. That kind of hindered it as well. We have the one acre that we had in essence allowed them to use for a year over year type project that really hasn't occurred and he isn't entirely sure it will occur. It would have been a neat thing to have happen, but we'll most likely be notifying the administration and school board that we'll probably need to end that agreement since they haven't done anything with it for almost two years now. Wimmer stated that he really is excited about trying to work with the County and getting other families in there, that's really fantastic and is one of the main goals of the community garden. We touched on it last time too, but he does really like the amount that the gardeners were able to donate to senior dining. The community garden has gone better than his wildest imaginations when we first started talking about it. Everett stated that she hasn't heard anything more from the Minnesota Center either, so as she hears about options of things we can do out there we can think about those too.

## **6. Parks Updates**

Everett stated that we have now had two movies. The Girl Scouts came to both. When we didn't have anyone signed up for the second, Everett sent out an email out the Friday before to everyone already signed up and within an hour the Girl Scouts called and said they'd be there. We had 54 at the first and 47 at the second; last year we were averaging around 30 people so the word is getting out. December 8<sup>th</sup>, we are showing Up and New Hope Community Church will be volunteering.

Everett attached options for bike racks to the agenda packet from Parkitect. They have designed options for bike racks and we do have money budgeted for one this year. We were thinking probably one of the "S" shaped ones (they call them serpentine racks). The one "U" option has the full logo though so that's

cool too. These are still kind of working drafts, but Everett wanted to show the board what we're working on. The idea is that we have something that is consistent system-wide but is still Isanti Parks branded. If we want to have something different in each park they gave us the one with Legacy Park shown and said we could change that font if we want. Wimmer stated that Parkitect is from Metal Coatings, which had done different bike racks but had sold the rights to it for about a decade, and they have gotten those back. They formed Parkitect to design bike racks, benches, all that type of thing. They are located right here in Isanti. They have contracts with significantly larger cities in Florida, the Carolinas, California – they do it all over the place. They will continue to give us the best price, it's a matter of pride for them as well. In discussions we've had with them, it's a very good situation for us to have. They make a really good product and they're also willing over time to take them in and clean them up. Zdon stated that it's a really good name for a company. Everett agreed that they do some really cool things and encouraged the board to check out their website for pictures of things they've done. She asked the board if they had thoughts on the ideas here as they move forward. Zdon said he liked the idea of them being consistent. Garvey stated that she liked the third one because it identifies Isanti Parks and the individual park. Johnson agreed that he thought that was the best one. Zdon stated that serpentine style is what you see everywhere. Johnson stated that he didn't know how you'd put a bike on the first one [single loop]. Zdon stated that you just chain it to it. Everett agreed and stated that would be a two-bike rack. Zdon said that with something like that people might not even know it's a bike rack. Witte agreed. Johnson said he would just think it was a sign. Zdon summarized that we definitely want a serpentine and that they liked the park name. Johnson said he thought that looked sharp. Everett stated that she thought they could change the shape of the plaque that goes between the sections too. For the amount of space, we'll probably keep that simplified version of the logo with just Isanti Parks and the tree. The tree there is the same in the Parks logo and the City logo.

Everett stated that otherwise she just had a couple of reminders. The school district representative will be here in January to discuss where the rock program is at. We'll give her a little bit of time to talk about what that program will be, and then discuss any rules that we want them to be aware of. Also a reminder that we do not have a December meeting. We will be back for the January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. We are still working on getting all of the events set for next year, and she will present any drafts of the brochure as we have them.

Zdon asked if anyone had any other items. Johnson said that he did. He explained that if anyone didn't know we are getting a hotel in the city, and he was trying to think about how we would keep in busy in November and December. He is thinking – he didn't know if anyone had been to Bentleyville in Duluth – why can't we bring that Isanti in Bluebird Park? He has a little bit of legwork and homework to do, and he's willing to do that, he just needs permission to put this on our next agenda to discuss this. Wimmer added that he wanted to make the board aware that we had taken a look at this previously; he and Everett had looked at it last year. The big that it comes down to obviously is money. In Duluth, that is all privately funded. It started out as a large display and it grew and grew and grew and it got kind of overwhelming so they moved it into the city of Duluth. We had looked at it previously; the big thing, as with everything, is money. You'd have to get substantial backers. The number he threw out was you'd probably have to get about \$50,000 just to start out. A big part of that, as an example with the street dances, we had to get a new transformer that was something like \$3,000-\$5,000. So just making sure it will all fit together that way. If the park board thinks it's a good idea, put it on the next agenda and we'll have discussion, then it goes to Council. There certainly isn't any funding in the budget for 2018 for this to occur. It would have to follow that same private enterprise type thing. Being in Bluebird Park would be a good location for it for sure; the land is there, the parking is there. Wimmer stated that he told Johnson that if he got some money together we'd certainly let it happen in our park. It would be great if it could happen. Johnson stated that if he recalls right, Duluth charges \$5 for parking, but the event is free. Witte confirmed that the event is free, and they take donations. Johnson stated that we can discuss it further. Wimmer stated that he wanted to reiterate that it would not be a City of Isanti event. Zdon stated it would be a private event in the park. Wimmer stated we wouldn't be setting those rules for it as a Council. If you

got the backing, it would be up to whatever non-profit. It would be, for lack of a better term, a glorified Special Event Permit for using the park for X-amount of time. That would be our only official interaction with it. Everett stated that we've had conversations about paid parking with BMX extensively too, so we have to make sure whatever happened there is the same across the board. Wimmer agreed and added that we would get most of the money as the City because we put in the parking lot. Zdon stated he thought it would be a good thing to start discussing, and obviously it would be at the soonest next year. Johnson agreed and said we'd meet in January to talk about it and it wouldn't happen until December 2018. Zdon stated that you'd need corporate sponsors, but it's out there. Everett asked for clarification about what would go on the January agenda. Johnson said he would do most of the work, but he's not going to say don't help him. Garvey stated that if it's not a city event, that there isn't anything Everett should need to do at this point to get prepared for it. After the meeting there might be a better idea of what do.

**7. 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 6:29 p.m.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 28<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,



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Katie Everett  
Community Events and Parks Coordinator