

**CITY OF ISANTI
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
February 27, 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, Mayor Wimmer, James Witte, and Aaron Zdon

Staff Present: Katie Everett, Community Events and Parks Coordinator

D. Agenda Modifications.

Motion by Johnson; second by Witte to approve the February 27, 2018 Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board agenda. Agenda was unanimously approved.

2. Approval of Minutes from January 23, 2018 Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Meeting

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

3. Movie Night Policy Update

Everett explained that the board has the edited version and the current version of the policy to review. At the last meeting, we had the issue of the Arts and Science Academy and the Cambridge Girl Scouts who were both interested in the same night. In item number two, we just had the organization must meet or be based in the City of Isanti, so Everett added “if no Isanti-based groups have applied 2 weeks before the movie date, organizations from the surrounding community may be accepted per City staff discretion.” That gives us a little bit of wiggle room, but we can also maybe say that you’re coming from Ely and that’s too far. In four, Everett added “Isanti-based,” she said if it comes up that we don’t have a bunch of groups and someone like the Cambridge Girl Scouts wants to do two, we can evaluate that when it happens. She explained that she would imagine we’d want any double ups to be Isanti based organizations, and gave that a three week deadline. Everett also added “Isanti-based” to number five, so that our groups are always getting priority pick. Everett stated that hopefully this will clarify this, and it’s hard to know what we will come across in the future, but hopefully this narrows it in. Garvey said she thinks it does help. Johnson stated that he likes the changes, and thinks that number 5 is a very fair idea too. Everett stated that most of 5 was in there before, and helps get new groups in as well. She stated that because this is a policy, it will need to go to City Council for approval. Zdon asked for a motion to approve the changes and make the recommendation to Council. Johnson made a motion, second by Garvey; the vote was unanimously approved.

4. Parks Updates

Everett explained that February movie night went really well, we had 66 people come which is the most so far this season. The Arts and Science Academy is going to be sending a bunch of kids to New York City next year and they’re interested in coming back next season, so we’ll probably see them again. March will be Heavenly Sunshine coming in for Secret Life of Pets.

Everett shared that Community Garden registration is rolling, and we are up to 43 plots reserved as of today. There are 17 left to fill. There are a couple of gardeners from last year that Everett is expecting to

still come back and maybe some other new people too. We have a handful of new people this year already in, so that's great news. Also adding to the garden, we've got Isanti County Public Health is going to be trying out a pilot program. They're hoping to bring in five families this year that they teach how to garden. One of their staff is a Master Gardener as well, so she'll be able to teach them techniques as well as how to prepare the food and those kinds of things. That way they have accountability throughout the whole season. Based on what we saw last year with School for All Seasons, it was too much space for them. We're going to cut that space in half. School for All Seasons will come back this year too. Everett was at the School For All Seasons conferences helping to recruit families to help out over the summer. They're really just looking for families that can sign up for one week in the summer to check the garden once or twice, and if they get enough people to do that, the teachers won't have to take all of that on. Everett explained that we're also planning to put in some more pollinator seeds on the other corner there, and then the rest is all rented out spaces.

Everett updated the board on the Community Center. She explained the replacement of the doors should happen very soon. The estimate will be approved at Council next week and then staff will work with the contractor to get the work done.

Everett stated that the City has also met with Rum River BMX. We do that any time there's a changeover on the board so that everyone is on the same page with what the lease actually says. We went through the terms of the lease and got everyone on board as well as going over what types of maintenance are their responsibility and what we take care of. We also went over the special event process. The meeting went really well.

Everett explained that the Residential Rain Garden program is actually funded out of the City's Stormwater Fund, but is kind of a common interest with this board. Everett explained that we will be hosting a workshop on April 19th here in Chambers. Soil and Water will be doing some education on what rain gardens are and some of the beginning ideas of what types of plants and how to put one of those in. At that workshop, we'll also be explaining how the incentive program works and how people can apply for that. Soil and Water this year is willing to go out to anyone's house that is interested in applying for the program to let them know if their property will work and give them pointers for where on their property will work best. Also, depending on how many applications we get, Soil and Water will do some design for some folks so they will walk people through the application process with picking out plants and figuring out how big their gardens need to be and that kind of thing. Soil and Water is really great at finding grant money, so having them join us isn't costing us anything. Mayor Wimmer stated that the workshop is county-wide, so hopefully we'll get people from other cities in the County and township folks here as well. Wimmer stated that Soil and Water has forwarded our policy on to Cambridge as well to see if they might follow what we've done. He stated that our incentive is up to 50% or up to \$500. There are some areas where these would be more beneficial than others, but we really want people to partake in the program. Soil and Water have been really great work with. We're also looking at doing some more revetment along the bank of the Rum at River Bluff Park. It has been a really great partnership with them the last six to twelve months. Garvey asked if Everett knew how many residents have signed up so far. Everett stated that the program was open last year, but we hadn't gotten any applications although there were some people who came in to ask about it. She wasn't sure if the length of the application was what held people back, so hopefully getting this extra help will be the nudge they need. Wimmer stated that there are kind of two issues – on the design side, so the workshop will be really helpful. People might also be kind of help up because they're not really sure exactly how it works, so this education piece will be really beneficial. Everett stated that in talking with other cities when we were putting this program together, it sounds like once you get a couple and other people can see the examples it really picks up from there. Garvey asked if when people come in to apply for new housing permits if this is included with any of that information. She thought that it may be easier at that time to install one that with an existing house. Everett stated that as far as she knows there's nothing tying those together right now. Wimmer agreed that there's nothing like that happening. He said it would be great, but often

times we have problems getting people to put in the right amount of black dirt and that kind of thing. The other thing with rain gardens is that they do become, he thinks, pretty personalized in the kinds of plants you put in and that kind of thing – and they have to be maintained. He thought that maybe if it was part of a neighborhood standard or something, that might work, but if we just have builders trying to do that he could see those things getting abandoned pretty quickly. Garvey clarified that it would have to be someone who is building a house on their own property. Everett stated that part of the agreement they need to sign is that they'll maintain the garden for five years, so whoever is applying would be making that commitment. We definitely couldn't have the situation where we have a contractor that's building six houses and then selling them. Zdon agreed, it would have to be the homeowner. Johnson said, or a place with an association would work stellar. Garvey said she normally sees them with new businesses that it's a requirement to have rain gardens, so she just didn't know if maybe residents would have the same thing. Wimmer stated that we have talked about them on a number of commercial projects because the ordinance has a number of different stormwater control options and landscaping requirements, that sort of thing. So we have talked to the last couple about doing rain gardens and they have chosen not to do that. We don't have anything that it's mandatory to do that, and he thinks they look at it and think about how they're going to have to maintain what this landscaping is. Everett told the board that all of the workshop and program information is on the website, so they are welcome to direct people there for more information. She also posted a Facebook event for the workshop.

Everett stated that the board members have all been given copies of the event calendar and they should be getting those in the next week or so at their homes with the Isantian. There are extra copies, so if they have a place where they think they can hand them out to let her know.

Everett had one last update. An event listed on the calendar is the Earth Day Clean Up. She is looking for groups that might be interested in coordinating a location. She has sent an email out to organizations she's worked with on past events. There are a couple of groups already that are willing to kind of station at a park. The day of the event, everybody in the community is welcome to just go out and we'll advertise where there will be people. We have a group that is interested in doing Legacy, and Everett stated that Mattson Park might also be a good location because they can get that park and the kind of spread toward downtown. We really just need one or two adults that can recognize that someone is walking up and needs direction. We'll provide the garbage bags and that kind of stuff, so it will just be having someone there to point people in the right direction. That will be April 21st, Saturday, from 10:00 am to noon.

Wimmer stated that he just had an update on the Trail Committee. The mayor of Cambridge and the mayor of Isanti are the Bike/Walk Trail Committee and each year we meet together with the County and Isanti Township, which a big chunk of the trail goes through. We talk about any issues or concerns and we also look at the budget amount and what we're planning to do from a repair and maintenance standpoint. Just so everyone is aware of that relationship, the City of Isanti and Cambridge took on the responsibility of that trail when we had it built. He and Mayor Palmer served on the committee for about a decade before it was built and have continued with it. It is going remarkably well, and the meetings are becoming very short because the staffs are working very well together. He doesn't think there have been any particular issues with it. We do get the request from time to time to clear the trail in the winter, and we talked about that here before, but the snow is basically a layer of protection against snowmobiles. Everett added that for the most part there aren't any major maintenance issues. In the past, there were issues with willow roots coming up and cracking the trail, so we are keeping a close eye on that. We are probably going to do a coat on the pavement section within the next three years or so, and then in the next 8 or 10 years will do a mill and overlay on the pavement. There's a big boardwalk section in the middle, and some of those boards are starting to warp. Because of the restrictions of being over a wetland, there are only certain sealants we can use. So there was nothing put on it when it went in. What we decided for now is that 5% of the boards will be replaced each year, just so we have something in mind so we know those have to be replaced. If we find a product that we can use that's actually effective we can look into

that too, but it sounds like the products we could use weren't going to last or be worth it. Everett stated that during the summer Cambridge staff and our Public Works are out on the trail making sure there aren't any issues in the meantime. They just repainted all of the bollards and the gates last year too. Wimmer added that the two staffs get together and inspect the trail to put together a list of what needs to be done as well, it's a pretty good system.

5. Adjournment

Motion by Johnson, second by Witte to adjourn the February 27, 2018 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board. Motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 27th day of February, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,



Katie Everett
Community Events and Parks Coordinator