

**CITY OF ISANTI
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 22, 2022**

Call to Order: Mr. Gahm called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Roll Call: Members Present: Zachary Gahm, Dan Hinnenkamp, Mayor Jeff Johnson, Vaughn Ihrke
Staff Present: Alyssa Olson, Parks, Recreation & Events Coordinator

Agenda/Modifications: None.

2. Meeting Minutes: Motion by Ihrke; second by Hinnenkamp to approve meeting Minutes from January 25, 2022. Motion passed 4-0.

3. Department Updates: Ms. Olson announced that the archery range had been approved by the City Council in the February meeting. Construction of the 9 lane range will begin in April and should be open in May. With that project, the Dog Park will be receiving a light in the southeast corner. A concrete culvert will also be added to the park.

Ms. Olson updated the Board on progress for the splash pad and restrooms project. She acknowledged that both projects are currently scheduled for 2023 and are over budget. The City will be applying for the DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant, which would offer up to \$300,000 in funding to complete both projects. That application will be submitted in March. If received, funding should cover installation of the restrooms and an amplified splash pad. If denied, both projects may need to be reconsidered given increased costs. Ms. Olson announced the expected costs for the restrooms are currently \$280,000, over the budget of \$218,000. Mr. Gahm requested that both the men's and women's restrooms include baby changing stations. Consensus was a preference for the splash pad option with grant funding, instead of the bare minimum without it. Mr. Gahm suggested fundraising for the project by naming blocks of concrete or getting some other support from the community. Ms. Olson noted that just because the money is budgeted in the CIP, does not mean the Council will approve the funds be used for these projects. Mr. Ihrke asked about hours of operation to which Ms. Olson replied that timeline would fair with weather and likely be open May through September. Park hours would be followed, but it would be a user-operated system that would open at about 10:00am and close around dusk. Ms. Olson also confirmed the City is not looking at staffing or ticketing options. Enclosing the splash pad increases some liabilities and increases costs when staffing is needed.

The City has partnered with the North 65 Chamber of Commerce to apply for a marketing grant. If approved, the City and North 65 would each receive \$5,000 in funding to promote events, including the Farmers Market and Illuminate Isanti. All funds have been awarded, so the City is waiting to hear back if the application was accepted.

Spring Isantian is being drafted with dates for upcoming events and vendor applications. Will be published in early March.

Community Garden plots are selling fast with just 8 of the ground plots, 7 raised beds and 2 elevated beds still available. Mr. Hinnenkamp asked what the expectation is for those plots and Ms. Olson responded that we are expecting all of them to be reserved.

February Movie Night had 25 attendees and concessions benefitted New Hope Community Church.

5. Open Discussion: Mr. Johnson noted he received an email address for a BNSF rail worker that could offer an opportunity to connect with the railroad on the park project.

Ms. Olson asked Mr. Hinnenkamp to reach out to his carnival contacts about rides for Illuminate Isanti as she hasn't received any responses to requests for a ferris wheel or merry-go-round.

Mr. Ihrke mentioned a community member asked him about adding a sand volleyball court in Bluebird Park. Ms. Olson and the Board mentioned the VFW and Wintergreens have or are building courts at their facilities. Mr. Ihrke did note that those facilities are restricted to customers of those businesses and that having an open play option in Bluebird may be beneficial. Ms. Olson will look into the options as the Park is being redesigned and also noted there is a regular volleyball net at Rum River Meadows Park.

Mr. Gahm mentioned many people are skeptical about moving the Street Dances to Bluebird park. Ms. Olson noted all event activities will be in close proximity within the green space surrounding the Amphitheater. She is also looking at adding some elevated features like face painting and Hammerschlagen to give it a different feel than on Main Street. She noted that setting a perimeter for drinking is a top obstacle currently, but she is

working with the Police Chief to determine the best route. Mr. Gahm asked how other cities are able to open their liquor laws to carry in the streets. Ms. Olson mentioned that we just need to identify the event space so that the Police Department and guests know where drinking is allowed and where they are at risk for ticketing. The Park is public property so alcoholic beverages are not allowed outside of the event perimeter. Mr. Hinnenkamp mentioned stating the park would be a good determinant. However, Ms. Olson mentioned the actual Park footprint extends far outside of the event space and would create a greater obstacle for the Police Department to monitor. Mr. Gahm expressed concern with community members bringing coolers of drinks into the park and how that will be managed. Ms. Olson stated that it will need to be determined ahead of time what will be allowed and where rules will be strictly enforced. Ms. Olson also acknowledged that this will be the first event with amplified sound that will be in the Park and the neighborhoods across from the area may challenge the events.

Adjournment: Motion by Johnson, second by Hinnenkamp to adjourn the February 22, 2022 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board. Motion passed 4-0, meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Alyssa Olson
Parks, Recreation & Events Coordinator