

**CITY OF ISANTI  
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 26, 2019  
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, James Witte, Aaron Zdon, and Mayor Johnson

**Staff Present:** Katie Everett, Parks, Recreation, and Culture Manager

**D. Agenda Modifications.**

Zdon asked if there were any agenda modifications, there were none. Motion by Garvey, second by Witte to approve the agenda for the February 26, 2019 Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Meeting.

**2. Approval of Minutes from January 22, 2019 Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Meeting**

Motion by Witte second by Garvey. Minutes were unanimously approved.

**3. 2019 Meeting Dates**

Meeting dates for 2019 had been omitted from the January packet. Motion from Witte, second by Garvey to approve all meetings dates. Dates were unanimously approved.

**4. Equipment for Cambridge-Isanti Bike/Walk Trail**

Everett explained that the proposed is a pull-behind piece of equipment that can be used on the Cambridge-Isanti Bike/Walk Trail. The Cities of Cambridge and Isanti contribute to that fund, and there is plenty of money in it. Cambridge will store it and maintain it, and if there are other uses that we have in town, we can use it. Zdon asked for clarification that we will be able to use it; Everett stated yes, as other trail needs arise both communities will be able to use it. Zdon asked to make sure that is clear in the final verbiage. Garvey asked if it states the specifics about future maintenance and how that will be handled. Everett explained that Cambridge will maintain the equipment once it is purchased. The board discussed that there will be routine maintenance involved. Everett explained that she said it would be used especially for the pine needles on the north end and sand on our end. The process from here is if the Board gives the recommendation, that is brought to Council and then we give them the go ahead to purchase it. Witte asked if this is just to be used for that trail. Everett said no; it will be purchased for that, but it will be available for other trails if needed. Garvey made a motion to recommend Council approval of the purchase, Witte made a second; the motion passed.

**5. Dog Park Update**

Everett gave a recap of the Council discussion. She made the change to have a separate sign on the fence for the dog park and the rules near the parking lot. She provided the updated signs in the packet. The Dog Park Rules sign was clarified to say “dogs *formally* declared dangerous” because there had been some confusion about what a dangerous dog was.

She added that during the Council discussion, a Councilmember was concerned that area dog parks have a lot of issues with people cleaning up after their dogs, and really wanted it to be clear to people that it’s a privilege to have the park and if it’s not maintained that the City doesn’t have to provide this. In Everett’s experience with signs at parks, it’s more effective to be encouraging than threatening to get people to do what you want. It can be most effective to build some community ownership of the dog park in other ways, but posting some signs might

also help. She provided some options for types of signs, and stated there are many versions already out there. The doggie bag dispenser option that we're including will come with a sign, and we could potentially post more inside the fence as well. Option 1 in the packet is a little more straightforward without being threatening, and Option 2 is more friendly and a reminder that it's a community park. Johnson stated that he would prefer to go about this in a more friendly manner as well; right away he liked number 2, and number 1 is a little stern but right to the point. Everett added that there's also something about people that when they are feeling threatened, they just want to do the opposite. Zdon stated that either option is okay, and he prefers number 1 because it is a little more direct. He also stated that these are not a huge investment, so we could even put a couple on each side if we needed. Johnson asked if there was any difference in price. Everett said that the pre-made signs are all pretty comparable, they range from \$20-40 each. Witte wondered if we could take Option 1's verbiage and Option 2's image. Zdon asked if we need to decide on a specific sign now since we have time. Everett said that we do not. She added that there is the line of thinking that if our approach is "if this doesn't get clean up, we're taking it away," then why spend that money in the first place? Public Works has recognized the additional maintenance time and staff are prepared to keep it open. Zdon stated that tons of cities do this and that isn't going to happen. Everett added that the whole Council voted to move it forward as well; Johnson confirmed. Zdon added that it is a valid concern; Everett agreed and said that planning ways to head that off is a good thing to do.

Garvey asked if we have any of these clean up signs at any of the parks now. Zdon stated that there's one at the beginning of the bike/walk trail, but no bags. Garvey said she just wanted to make sure there was not something we were already using other places. She said that her opinion is that we do not need to put these signs everywhere. There's one way to enter and they'll see the sign there; if you put up too many signs, people stop reading signs. They're in a fenced in area and not going anywhere. Everett agreed that probably by the time people have passed the signs on the way in, they either are or they aren't going to pick up after their dogs. It might just be based more on whether there are other people there to watch them do it. Garvey added that it opens up an opportunity for some kind of adopt-a-park program. Everett stated that we do actually have a program, it just has sat idle for a long time and we don't currently have anyone participating. Garvey said this a prime opportunity for a group to be in charge of that, or maybe a business that wants to volunteer. Zdon asked if Everett could provide details at the next meeting about the Adopt-A-Park Program. Everett said that she can provide some general information now and then will bring it back. It's a basic agreement that they'll clean it up, she thinks three times per year. It would be worth looking at for possible updates. It's possible people thought there were too many requirements or something so they didn't go through with it.

Witte asked if the board needs to decide how many signs are going into the park now. Everett said from here she would like to get an idea of what their philosophy for addressing the issue is; if they have an idea of some options she can put together an idea of what that might look like too. Witte stated that he thinks two is enough. Johnson agreed that one on each side is too many. Everett stated that the dispensers she has seen typically have a sign and the dispenser itself also has some sort of reminder language on it. Many of those places also have separate signs without the dispensers if we just want something that matches. Zdon also stated that when we order the dispenser for the dog park we can talk about ordering more for other locations as well, because we might get a better price. Garvey agreed that she would like to order at least a few in case we need to replace them and have that option to put them in other places, if there is a price reduction. Johnson asked if we would want two of them at the dog park. Everett stated since the dispenser will go right at the entrance, it's probably not necessary to put one inside as well. She added that the rules sign does indicate that if for some reason that box is empty, people still need to clean up after themselves. She has also seen people at other dog parks that will bring extra plastic bags and leave them there for others to use, which is a great way to build that community ownership too. Garvey said that it might also be helpful to customize a sign with something directing people to call or email if the box is empty. Everett asked for clarification about whether the additional reminder signs are necessary with the dispenser and rules sign. Zdon said he thinks we should get a couple of reminder signs. Garvey stated that if we do get additional signs, it would make sense to put them right on the fence. The Board agreed. Everett asked for clarification if they would like to see another sign option that combines these options. Garvey added that that sign with color sign is current now, but in 10 years it will probably look outdated. Everett stated that by then, we will likely need to replace the signs anyway.

Everett added that otherwise the project is on hold until the snow melts; she has sent the plans to Bolton and Menk so they will be prepared to do a survey.

## **6. Parks Updates**

Everett shared that community garden registrations continue to come in. Last year, we took out the table style raised beds because they were falling apart and no one reserved them. Someone has requested that option this year, so we are asking Public Works to build a new one for us. We have had requests for raised beds, so we will add the last two that we got through a grant. We will also add another row of plots this year. Before the garden opens, we will add all new mulch. It was all tilled under last year due to the weeds. We did some field tests on some organic herbicide options so hopefully we can stay on top of that better. That will open mid-May.

We have gotten some recommendations for types of trees that will work over at Unity. There are quite a few, so she will filter through them and make a recommendation about what might look nice and will be easy to take care of. The Spring Isantian and pocket calendars should be arriving very soon. They will come in a big envelope this time around. Movie attendance has been down. It sounded like there was something going on at the Middle School maybe, or some other community event at the same time. The next Movie Night is in March, we're showing The Emoji Movie and still need a volunteer group.

Farmers' Market vendor applications are starting to come back as well. Everett has checked in with most of last year's vendors and most are planning to come back. There are a few who won't be able to return this year for various reasons, but no one has said that they're not coming back because they're dissatisfied about anything. We can take applications all season as spaces are available. There is also a pre-season meeting that people can attend if they have questions about what they need to do to join.

Everett also has received applications from both ice cream vendors for the street dances and asked the board for their opinion about whether we should allow both in for this year. She said that we try not to duplicate products for sale, but there may be an argument that those are different things. Johnson said that he thought we could do both and put them on opposite ends. Zdon said it will affect both of their businesses some. Garvey asked if they know that each of them would be there. Everett stated that she has talked with The Parlor before, and the competition does not particularly bother them, but they would probably prefer to be the only one for the sake of their business. She does not think they will leave if we let the other one in. She has not yet spoken to Scoops about this yet. Garvey said that she thinks it is worth trying it on a trial basis for this year and let both know that we will want their feedback at the end of the year so we know for next year if we need to only let one in. Everett added that we are starting to book bigger bands as well, so we are hoping for bigger crowds which should also help. Garvey also agreed that they are kind of different products. Zdon agreed to do the trial, but to let them both know, and if there is a problem that The Parlor has priority since they have been participating for so long. Garvey said that as long as everyone knows it's a trial basis and not a permanent decision that we should be okay going forward and will make a different decision next year if we need to. Garvey added that whoever got their information in first should maybe get their preference for where they want to be located. Everett stated that we can do that.

## **7. Adjournment**

Motion by Witte, second by Johnson to adjourn the February 26, 2019 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board. Motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 26<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,



---

Katie Everett  
Parks, Recreation, and Culture Manager