

**CITY OF ISANTI
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
February 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, Mayor Wimmer, James Witte, and 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 Wimmer, second by Garvey to approve the February 28, 2017 Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Agenda. Motion was unanimously approved.

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

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

3. Bench and Table Update

Everett stated that the board will talk more about this on the parks tour, but thought she would give a baseline of what we have to look at for Mattson and Isanti Hills. The memo attachment shows what we currently have; the price doesn't include freight, so depending on how many tables we get she would guess about \$1000 per table. We have \$5000 budgeted, so depending on if we decide we also want to get benches or whatever we decide to do, we have a little bit of room to get more than one table for each park. The aluminum benches at Mattson down by the tennis courts seem to be okay. There is an aluminum bench at Isanti Hills that is almost buried in the sand, and Everett said they have talked about that one before and it might just be a matter of moving that bench and it's really okay. We will evaluate those things more, but at least we have some prices to work from. For the most part, different vendors all kind of wash out with prices – some of the more expensive ones then have free shipping. Zdon confirmed that on the park tour we will firm this up. His current recommendation would be to stick with the same that we have, but we can look at it. Everett stated that it looks like some different vendors sell exactly the same table, too. Zdon stated that it also doesn't hurt to ask when we're ordering if we can get free shipping because the competitors do.

4. 2017 Parks Brochure Review

Everett stated that board members all have a color version updated this afternoon, and there are a couple of key things that have changed since the version they saw. Everett asked Mayor Wimmer if he would like to give the update. Wimmer stated that we are going to move the farmers' market from where it had been located because we aren't getting the numbers that we want from vendors or people going through, and the reason Council had decided to have it there was to bring people to the downtown area. We've gotten basically zero response from the businesses along there trying to take advantage of it, even as simple as leaving information at the City table that's there. So, in order to make sure we have a farmers

market that is viable long term, we're looking to move it out by the Isanti Liquor Store. We own the lot to the north. Wimmer has spoken with the manager there as well as Urban's Hardware, and it's very positive. If you look at the parking lot [at the liquor store], the open space to the north of that is also owned by the city. We'd put vendors there, customer parking would be at the liquor store parking. There may be some cross benefit there. Obviously we'll get a lot more traffic at the farmers market. Wimmer thinks it will make it a lot easier to get vendors. As we talked about it, it will take a little while, next year will be much better as they see the outcome from this year, but hopefully it'll get some more vendors in there. Everett has brought up vendor parking, which is something we'll have to figure out how we get that if we do end up with twenty/twenty-five vendors, we'll need places to put them. That's a great problem to have.

Wimmer stated that additionally we no longer have the Two Cities, One Community event. So we're going to take that, and on August 12th we'll take those activities and meld them in with the last Street Dance and that is also the car show spectacular event. So we'll have activities starting at 8:00 am running all the way through the end of the Street Dance at 11:00 pm. We're going to work with some other groups to get some volunteers to help out with that, as well as some possible internship type things for the summer. We'll have a lot of great events throughout that whole day. For those who have done the 5K or bike ride, the lot where it starts in Cambridge is actually owned by the state, so we'll work with them to use that lot for the event. It will be another great full day kind of thing, kind of like what they work during Rodeo/Jubilee days with stuff going all day. It will be a nice end of summer event. We don't have a name yet for it, but we're working on it, then we can cross market everything as well.

Mayor Wimmer also explained that the scavenger hunt will be the best part. It has morphed from a medallion hunt into a scavenger hunt, Everett has some good stuff put together. We are looking at announcing it at the June Street Dance or Jubilee Days so we have a number of weeks. The goal is to get everybody into all of our parks, to get them into other potential spots within the city that we want them to become accustomed with. The first 100 people that complete the scavenger hunt would get a prize and then they would be entered in a drawing for a grand prize. We're looking at starting with about \$100 for a grand prize, but hopefully we can boost it up by then. Zdon asked if Park Board members can participate, Wimmer stated everyone can participate. Everett stated they could as long as they didn't write the clues. Everett stated the basic idea is that the clues are selected by parks or other places we want people to visit; you go to the place and answer a question that you can only answer by going there. Wimmer gave the example of looking for the number of bolts on a certain table at Legacy Park.

Zdon stated that he had a couple of things on the map in the brochure. First, number 6, Unity Park, is missing on the map image. The other is do we want to add a "13a" since we have a 13a box for the garden, the same way it's listed for 2, Bluebird Park. Everett stated that is a good idea. Everett stated that she did move the location of the farmers market over and added West Dual because it wasn't there before. Zdon said that will be cool because all those cars will be able to see it. Wimmer stated that the people coming into the store too, and John, the manager there, was excited about the idea. Wimmer stated that when he thought of the idea he wanted to make sure he talked to everybody. Garvey stated that business for the liquor store will benefit as well. Wimmer stated that they talked about the possibility of people buying things at the market and going to the liquor store to get something that will go with it. Longer term, Wimmer was also thinking that we can put together recipes with a shopping list.

Wimmer stated another update is with the Arts and Science Academy. We're making progress, but he is taking the position that Council will not approve changes to their CUP to allow more students until we see ground broken and they're working on that park component of the whole project.

Everett asked if there were any other changes to the brochure. She stated that the Last Chance Summer Dance section will change, but it's kind of a filler for the event. If we don't come up with a better name, it

will be Last Chance Summer Dance; Zdon stated it's not terrible. Everett stated that if there are events to go on the last page, to let her know. She found many that aren't happening anymore or don't have people to contact to verify when they are. Zdon stated that BMX will have a national in May as well.

Everett stated that otherwise, programs are pretty similar to last year. Movies are set. Street Dance bands changed since the last meeting. Wimmer explained that Hitchville stopped communicating. Everett explained that after we booked Devon Worley she got an email from Hitchville and they had been in Mexico for eleven days. Devon Worley Band is popular in this area, she usually had been up at Fire on the Rum and that kind of stuff, so it will be a good show for us too.

Everett stated that we do have some volunteers coming from Access Church for the Earth Day clean up, so if the members knew of any more volunteers to let her know and we could maybe get to some more parks that day too.

Wimmer asked what the numbers were for the last movie night. Everett stated that movie night with Heavenly Sunshine had 70 people, and it was that really nice day so we didn't know if anyone was going to come inside, so 70 was a great number for that day.

Everett explained that the brochure will hopefully get to the printers by the end of this week or early next week, so this will probably be the last time the board sees it before it's actually printed.

5. Tennis Court Research Update

Everett reminded the board that at the last meeting they talked about costs for the tennis courts. She dug back a little bit and couldn't find when the courts were initially installed, but back in 2003 they were completely reconstructed and that was a \$62,000 project. Everett explained that she thinks if the courts are maintained properly, that may be a project that never really has to happen, though she's not positive. As far as resurfacing, 10-15 years seems pretty typical depending on location and weather conditions, annual crack filling, that kind of thing. We're kind of at that point, where it's typical that we'd have to do it again. She said she didn't know if this was something we wanted to look at for the 2018 budget. Wimmer stated that we have to, there's one crack that's getting pretty big. Zdon confirmed that we need to look at getting it done, but it's not in the budget so we can't do it now. But, if we can crack fill and stay on top of the weeds for now. Everett explained that the depths of the cracks at this point, we really can't fill, but we certainly can make sure there aren't weeds growing in them this year and making it worse, and keep them as playable as possible. Wimmer confirmed that we need to get something in the 2018 budget. Everett explained that she did look into the grant that Garvey had found and it wasn't as promising as we originally thought. It was for up to 10% of what you're doing, for us \$1,400. At the time that we're looking to do it, she will see if we can get \$1,400 to help, but it's not something that can cover our whole cost. Everett stated she'll make a note and we'll talk about it at budget time.

6. Parks Updates

Everett stated that some of these were covered in the brochure update so we'll skip through. She explained that March Movie Night will have New Hope Community Church volunteering and they're new to town so it will be cool to see some of those faces.

Skate park equipment – Everett directed the members to the picture that Zdon put together, and the attached picture showing where the water sits on the slab. What we need to decide is the general area where the equipment will be moved. As public works started looking at it, the composite boards underneath are cracked. In order to put it back together, the alternative is marine grade plywood. We should be able to replace it with what's budgeted and get some panels to replace the worst stuff this year. Anything we can't do, we'll get to early next year. That shouldn't be a major setback, but we may not be

able to get as many panels as we thought we would. Everett stated that it looks like what is on the picture from Zdon makes sense with where the water sits. Zdon stated that it's not there for water reasons, but it does work well with where the water sits also. It allows for future expansion. Zdon stated the only major input would be that currently to the north of the north-most obstacle, there's about 30-40 feet that's kind of wasted space. We want to have it maybe 10 feet off of the north side. Everett stated that there might be safety regulations on that, but she's not sure since it's cement anyway. Zdon pointed out that the south side right now only has about a foot. Everett asked if the orientation works. Zdon stated yes, with what we have, put everything where it is, but in the northwest corner. Everett asked if there was any preference from the west side of the slab how far over it goes. Zdon stated that the same, or maybe a little more over so there's space at the rail. He stated that when they get to that point he'd be glad to come out and look at it. Wimmer stated that when it's time, to go out there with public works to map out where stuff is and start marking it, that would be the best thing to do. Otherwise, we can have a 10 minute conversation now, but we'll just have to repeat it again. Zdon confirmed that for now, basically how it is now, a little further north, maybe a little farther east. There was discussion about where the water sits on the slab.

Everett stated that community garden reservations have started coming in. There are 18 ground plots reserved at this point, and a couple more people that were in last year have called but haven't had a chance to get in yet. Wimmer asked how many there are total. Everett stated there are 60 total and 3 raised beds. She did put in the mini grant application for 3 more, and included new hoses in that because there was some more money to play with. She did include on the garden layout that she didn't think it made sense to have the beds in the garden being weathered if they weren't being used, so at the point we get reservations for them, we'll install them. The School for all Seasons is excited to come back. Everett will be at their school next week for STEAM week, and they are going to try to do as many garden-related things over STEAM week as they can. She will give them a presentation on pollinators.

Everett explained that the future dog park is going to be a 2018 budget item. Going through the process, we'll need to get the lot surveyed so we know exactly where the fence can go so we don't end up on railroad property. Park board will be updated as all of that happens. Wimmer stated that it ties into one of the other things we're looking at in 2018. We're looking at doing something, most likely and addition, but possibly a stand alone, Public Works building. The two buildings that are just east of the BMX building are full of police ceased property, public works stuff, we have stuff at the water tower. Every free space we have, pretty much, has stuff jammed in it everywhere. What we're looking at is having a place that would be secure, and we had public works fenced in last year, so if it's police property they'll be able to get to what they need too. In a lot of the situations, to get to one thing you have to pull out three others, it's a mess. With this, we'd have dedicated space for the police department and public works, as well as having place for our squad cars. All of our squad cars sit outside because we have no place to park them inside. Those two buildings will be removed once this other building is up, so that will open the space up more. It kind of all ties together. Zdon stated that it's time, and those buildings have served their purpose. Wimmer stated that he thought one of them was from the old summer kitchen, but he's talked to the original land owners and they know that it'll be going too.

Everett stated that she also listed the new street dance dates.

Wimmer stated that we also got a park grant for River Bluff. Everett stated that we got another mini grant through Partners in Healthy Living to have Bolton and Menk make us trail maps similar to what we have at Legacy for River Bluff. That grant has been accepted by council and we've seen the first draft of that, and it looks good. Wimmer stated that we'll update the Legacy one as well. And the barrier went up today. We'll put signs up. Obviously, if someone wanted to drive around they could, but with those signs if they do it they'll be immediately ticketed because now we can enforce it. Everett stated that there's a gap between the gates, so hopefully it's obvious that you can walk back there still. Wimmer stated that hopefully this will cut down on some of the nonsense that's been happening. Garvey stated that it's gone

down significantly, and Wimmer confirmed that they've picked up a few people and gotten a couple of vehicles.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Garvey, second by Witte to adjourn the February 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 28th day of February, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Katie Everett", written in dark ink.

Katie Everett
Community Events and Parks Coordinator