

**CITY OF ISANTI  
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 24, 2015  
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:** Jamie Bergwick , Jennifer Garvey, Mayor George Wimmer, Lynn True and Aaron Zdon

**Members Absent:** Maddie Anderson

**Staff Present:** Josi Wood, Community Events Manager and Parks Coordinator.

**D. Agenda Modifications.**

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

Motion by Garvey, second by True to approve the March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Agenda. Motion was unanimously approved.

**2. Approval of Minutes from February 24, 2015 Parks, Recreation and Culture Board Meeting.**

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

**3. Public Hearing**

**A. None**

**4. Update Regarding Future Parkland, PID 16.095.0500**

Wood stated this is the parcel we acquired through tax forfeiture and we have been going through the motions with the DNR to find out what we can and cannot do in regards to turning it into parkland space. Wood asked the Mayor to go into more depth on the project.

Wimmer stated that some in the room may be interested in the northern 27-acre parcel that the City received from the DNR through tax forfeiture and others interested in the southern parcel that the owners thought they had deeded over to the City a couple decades ago. Wimmer asked if anyone was interested in the 27-acre that is the northern parcel behind Bergmann Court.

There was none.

Wimmer stated that there was some questions about that parcel from the Planning Commission meeting and stated that it is mostly under water a good portion of the year. Wimmer stated that there were some concerns if there were trails on that land. Wimmer stated at this point we were not looking to develop that land. Wimmer stated there may be something in the future but he can't really say definitively.

Wimmer stated he did not know what we would have that could withstand getting washed out each Spring. Wimmer stated that area is what it is and will probably continue that way.

Wimmer stated the 38-acre parcel is one that we have already done some park design. Wimmer stated we have discussed a trail that would lead to Martin's Landing which would link up to the Middle School. Wimmer stated we are looking at having a walking path around the area and a path down to the river where we are proposing a fishing pier which would have stairs and an ADA access point which would zig zag down to the river. Wimmer stated there is also a proposed 9-hole disc golf course which we are looking to work with the school district to plant educational native prairie plantings within it. Wimmer stated about 10 years ago or so that area was clear-cut by a developer who thought he was going to develop the area and put in a road. The DNR did not actively manage that area. Wimmer stated that we spoke with two DNR agents who informed us that back a while ago [1980] sections of areas were deemed under the Wild and Scenic River Easement area instead of surveying to find out which areas required that regulation. Wimmer stated the 27-acre which is usually completely covered by water and an important component of the Rum River system which should not be developed or touched only has a 400' buffer in the protected area. Wimmer stated the other area, 38-acre, which is primarily flat, developable land has an easement which could potentially go into the back of some people's yards that already have their homes there. Wimmer stated the process that they [DNR] first laid out was not very good in that what needed to be protected or not protected was patch-worked together without much rhyme or reason. Wimmer stated when the developer did clear-cut the area, if the area had been managed by the DNR, he should have been fined; that didn't happen. Wimmer stated now they want us to restore some of the land which they were never on top of. Wimmer stated as part of the disc golf course there will be native plantings of what should be there instead of the text book case of invasive species which has taken over. Wimmer shared the plan of how the schools could be involved. Wimmer stated the last item being looked at is a community garden area. Wimmer shared the plan of how the community garden would serve a need within the community and access to all this would be parking in the lot near Jason Lee's property.

Wimmer asked Wood if there was some movement on it.

Wood stated she was told by Mr. Dan Golner, who is in the WSR easement division and who was one of the individuals who had come out on the initial site visit, informed her that he along with others would be having a meeting on Thursday this week to discuss what was being requested and then shortly thereafter would be able to supply us with an answer of what we could or could not do.

Wimmer then informed the individuals in the room more details about the proposed project and that it would be looked at as a two phase project that may take years once we find out what we can and cannot do.

Zdon asked if there was anyone in the room who would like to speak please come up to the microphone and state your name and address.

Mr. Wayne Traver, 1001 Rum River Dr, Isanti MN 55040, approached the podium. Traver asked the Board where in reference to a description of resident's homes would the trail go.

Wimmer confirmed where Traver was indeed mentioning was where the proposed trail would go.

Traver stated that he has some concerns with this location. Traver stated one would be the cost because it floods extremely well. Traver asked if any members of the Board had walked back there. He stated that if we did this time of year we would be up to our knees in mud. Traver continued to describe how that area floods and how he is concerned with the cost of maintenance. He also shared his concern not only with the cost and problematic bugs, but the people it will bring to that area and that he already had an

attempted break in of his house and that was before the area was easily accessible. Traver asked if the Board had thought of any of that.

Wimmer stated that he lives in that area as well. Wimmer stated that there is already a trail there that is pretty good the majority of the time. Wimmer stated the current trail is what is meant by the term trail. He stated path may be a better term. Wimmer described what type of trail is proposed.

Discussion was held regarding the type of trail/path and location it would be in reference to the area and also the minimum maintenance that it would require.

Wimmer stated that the trail and bridge going to Martin's Landing could be maybe 5-10 years out. When the time comes, there will be meetings just like this for discussion. Wimmer stated right now it is scoping out what we would like to do, but we do think it would be beneficial to have a trail to connect the two.

Wimmer described how the Middle School uses the area currently and how more school age children could utilize even more with the proposed additions.

Traver stated that that is all that he wanted to discuss for now.

Zdon stated that he would be notified before anything would happen.

Mr. Jason Lee, 1109 Rum River Dr, Isanti MN 55040, approached the podium. Lee stated that he was not a fan of the thought of having people park within feet of his property. He asked that if there was going to be parking that it be pushed back farther if that is a possibility.

Wimmer stated that the parking is really up to the DNR. Wimmer stated that we do have the parcel right next to you which would more than likely be the only place that we can do parking. Wimmer stated that he did not think the DNR would allow us to put it anywhere else.

Lee stated that if you put the parking there then everything else would be right in my back yard.

Wimmer (jokingly) stated there could have been a development back there and now there will be a beautiful park.

Lee stated that the City is willing to invest money into this but there is another park 300 yards away and there isn't a volleyball court or nothing in there yet.

Wimmer stated that the extension of land there was bought to have open area for kids to play in. Wimmer stated that he knows there are a lot of volleyball players in that area at this particular point. Wimmer stated anything is possible at this point. Wimmer stated having this land which we didn't know we would have last year, definitely opens up the possibilities for something like that.

Lee stated that people are talking that there is a ton of money spent on parks in this community but we are all paying hundred-dollar water bills.

Wimmer and Zdon described how the Park Dedication Funds can only be used to fund new parks. By State Statute there are rules that must be followed and those funds cannot even be used to fix current parks nor be used for anything other than new parks.

Discussion was held regarding how park dedication funds are used and obtained.

Mr. Traver approached the podium again and asked if any of the Board members had road their 4-wheeler down the river until you got engulfed in mud.

Wimmer [and other Board members] stated that he hadn't and that would be not allowed in the City.

Traver described that on a hot summer day you can drive way far down before you reach water. He continued to describe the condition of the area during the summer months alluding to the conditions not being conducive for a fishing pier.

Discussion was held regarding how fishing piers can change with the altering water levels which happens in most lakes/ivers as described by Garvey.

Mr. Joe Norton, 1005 Rum River Drive, Isanti MN55040, approached the podium. Norton asked the Board where was the location of the pier going to be.

Wimmer described it would be almost straight West of the open high ground area.

Norton stated that the bugs are very bad down there and half the year it is under water. Norton stated even by Martin's Landing the bugs are insane. Norton stated that he knows bug control has been talked about before but there is just not a lot you can do near the water. Norton continued to share his concerns about having a park area in the lowland areas in this property.

Norton asked if there could be a pier at Martin's Landing.

Wimmer and Zdon agreed that would be great, but the DNR will not put one there and will not allow for one to be there.

Wimmer described how the restrictions the DNR has put onto the land on the Rum River within city limits has prohibited us from doing much of anything. He also stated that Cambridge may be allowed to place one in their park because their park was established before the restrictions.

Norton asked if we [land owners] would no longer have waterfront property.

Wimmer stated that he does not control that.

Discussion was held on how the land and topography changes and that the landowners are still assessed as waterfront because water flows in during certain time periods.

Wimmer described what he anticipates will result from the DNR discussions on what we can and cannot do.

Wimmer stated once we find out what we are able to do, we will involve everyone before it actual happens.

Norton asked what would be entailed in the community garden portion.

Discussion was held on how the community garden may potentially run and what it would entail for size and maintenance.

Wimmer stated that with any new project that may be in the back yard of residents, there can be positive or negative impacts. Wimmer stated as we continue to develop this idea, the main goal is to find a place

for a community garden and activities that we do not currently have and to do it as inexpensive as possible. Wimmer stated if we were to leave this as is, the DNR currently has the easement area going into your backyards somewhere between 10-40 feet. This would be structures you have there that they would want you to have. Wimmer stated this is also something we are working on because we do not want you to lose something that you have had there for a long time. Wimmer described how the DNR has not done anything with this property in decades and the currently condition of the property has never been managed and then now they are on top of wanting to enforce the easement. Wimmer stated everyone knows how to get ahold of me and that everyone will be in the loop.

## **5. Isanti Indoor Arena Public Restroom Signs**

Wood stated she would like the Board's input on putting up public restroom signs so people know they are open to the public as it may be hard to tell if the sign is right at the building. Wood stated we could post signs that state public restroom with a directional arrow so there is awareness near the playground. Wood stated she was concerned with placing the hours on the signs as the hours may vary slightly in the morning and night based on whom is opening them and the circumstances. Wood asked the Board if they want to put hours on the signs or not.

Wimmer asked worse case they would be open a little bit later.

Wood stated that PD would be opening on weekends and so that time could vary.

Wimmer stated he would still like to see hours on the sign. Wimmer stated he also wanted the Board to consider that there is a portable over there that we could get rid of now that we have these restrooms. Wimmer stated we needed to figure that out and asked Garvey what her thoughts were. Wimmer stated he has been in parks where you have to go a long way to get to them. Wimmer stated it is convenient to have the portable by the play area.

Garvey stated that the majority of the users of the playground are little kids and they will not make it to the bathrooms with that far of a distance. Garvey stated maybe over time getting rid of the portable once people realize the bathrooms are there may be an option. Zdon agreed with Garvey.

Wimmer asked if we should start putting signage out this Spring.

Garvey stated she did but that she thought the hours should not be on them so then the hours could be adjusted at any time. Garvey stated that she didn't recall seeing hours on any other restroom signs at other parks.

Bergwick asked if we should put open daylight hours.

Wood stated that could be misleading. Wimmer agreed and stated especially in winter.

Wood stated that if we post a sign that says park rules located near the path entrance, near the hockey rink or pine trees, since this is a far distance from where we have park rules posted, and then we could place a directional sign with restroom right below it.

The Board agreed that this would be a good option.

Wood stated that we may also want to have an ECS container near this sign since trash will come with more users of this pathway.

Zdon agreed.

Garvey stated she had hesitation of another post that public works would have to mow around

Wimmer stated we were thinking near the trail and tree line where there isn't much mowing to be done because of the pine needles. Wood agreed.

Wood will work with public works for a good location.

Wood stated she would like for those who are using the playground to see the sign to lead them up to restrooms.

Motion by Mayor to direct staff to put up appropriate signage with the Isanti Indoor Arena public restrooms facilities. Second by Bergwick. Vote was unanimously approved.

**6. Outdoor (Monument) Sign at Isanti Indoor Arena-Home of Rum River BMX**

Wood stated we are looking at putting up a monument sign at the Isanti Indoor Arena to build awareness of what the facility is for. Wood stated we are planning on rock faced block with a two sided panel between them. Wood stated you can see what the image would tentatively look like. Wood stated it has been brought up that since we will be building not only awareness of the facility but also of the RR BMX activities that we request RR BMX Association to pay a portion of the sign to have their logo and events listed.

Wimmer stated we would have a reader board as part of the sign so that as people went by they would see there is a national event happening this weekend and use it for other activities in the city for the off days. Wimmer stated it would be so people know what is going on over there.

Garvey asked who would be the one to place things on the letter board.

Wimmer stated it would be Wood or City Staff.

Garvey confirmed that it would be the City who would control what message got put up on the board.

Wimmer stated yes.

Garvey asked what the small words said on the bottom.

Wood stated that was the City and RR BMX websites.

Discussion was held on which direction the sign would face to make the most sense and also that the size can be no larger than eight feet.

Wood asked if we should move forward with discussing it with RR BMX.

Zdon stated we would need to write a letter to the RR BMX Association Board requesting RR BMX to pay a portion of it. Zdon stated the City is to supply all exterior facility signage. Zdon stated but if the City is requesting they help pay then it needs to be written and show a design in the proposal.

Wimmer agreed. Wimmer stated we are looking to go to their Board and ask that they participate and that it be about a 30% participation rate and see where that goes. Wimmer stated it is because we are advertising them as well. Wimmer stated if it was just a City of Isanti Indoor Arena sign that didn't promote them then we wouldn't but since they would be on it, then we should find out what can be done.

Bergwick stated that the City would install it, maintain it and also put on the letter. Bergwick asked if they would need to submit something that would say what they wanted the letter board to say.

Wimmer stated Wood is the one managing the facility and yes it would need to be communicated to her.

Wimmer motioned to move forward to send the monument sign to City Council and to approach participation from the Rum River BMX Association. Second by True and Bergwick. Vote was unanimously approved.

**7. Adjournment**

Motion by Garvey, second by True to adjourn the March 24, 2015 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board. Motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 24<sup>th</sup> day of March 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

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Josi Wood  
Community Events Manager and Parks Coordinator