

**CITY OF ISANTI
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
March 27, 2018
City Council Chambers**

1. Meeting Opening.

A. Call to Order.

Garvey 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

Members Absent: James Witte, and Aaron Zdon

Staff Present: Katie Everett, Community Events and Parks Coordinator

D. Agenda Modifications.

Garvey stated that she would like to add discussion about park lighting to the agenda. Wimmer stated that he would also like to add a discussion about next month's park tour to the agenda. These items were added under 5. Parks Updates. Wimmer made a motion to approve the amended agenda, second by Johnson. The amended agenda was unanimously approved.

2. Approval of Minutes from February 27, 2018 Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Meeting

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

3. School Use of Mattson Tennis Courts

Everett informed that board that the school's current contract goes through the spring season, so they will be using the courts for this spring. As soon as they are done, Everett will get the contractor scheduled to get them resurfaced. In the fall, the schools will be using courts in Cambridge instead of here. If they decide they want to come back sometime in the future, we'll go back to square one and decide where want their contract to sit. Garvey asked if they had any other feedback with not wanting to come back. Everett said they just told her Cambridge gave them a lower price. Johnson said that he's a little disappointed about that. Everett said they did make a point of saying that they didn't ask anyone else for prices, they were just approached with this. Wimmer stated that when we first started doing this, we did receive some significant negative feedback for letting the schools take over the courts. Johnson added that it better for the public now; Wimmer agreed, they get to actually use the courts now that they paid for. Wimmer said that maybe if you're a tennis player you adding more time getting bussed up to Cambridge, but for our City, our residents can use these nice courts that we'll have completely refurbished. Garvey asked as far as the resurfacing if there's been put out to the public yet that that's coming, is it in the Isantian or anything like that? Everett said she did not put it in the Isantian, but it will definitely get posted to the website and signs will be posted at the courts as soon as we know when that is. Everett explained that she did talk to the contractor and because they never know when they're actually going to be able to start their projects, we don't know exactly when that will happen. She told him to put us at the beginning of the list. Garvey asked if Everett knows of any other regular users, senior groups or anything like that, that have used the group regularly. Everett explained that she's not aware of any organized groups, but she just recently did get a call from a gentleman that said he and one of his friends like to use the courts regularly and they wanted to know the school was going to be back. Everett stated that she will keep the board updated on that process.

4. Earth Day Clean Up

Everett stated the groups signed up so far include the Girl Scouts, New Hope Church (who said they really wanted to do Legacy Park when they signed up), Coborn's, Flagship Bank, and the Master Gardeners. She was hoping there would be less snow on the ground so she could get out and see what really needs to be cleaned up, but she shared a draft plan. She spoke with Public Services Director Wood, and they think it may be useful to have people a little farther from the beaten path that Public Works doesn't typically get to right away in the spring. One area Everett would like to have people is at the City Hall parking lot to work on cleaning up in the drainage areas that collect a lot of trash, and they can work into downtown in the former Eagle Park and go from there. She said that we can have the Master Gardeners at River Bluff, and then there may be other garden projects we can have them work on too. Depending on how many people Coborn's can come up with, we can put them at Bluebird and they can cover more area. Everett asked if the board members had any areas that they wanted to have volunteers work on. The goal is that the locations will be advertised so residents can join too. Having some sort of meeting location would be useful, but not completely necessary. She said she can also just work with Public Works to determine the areas that need the most work. Wimmer said that Whisper Ridge and Isanti Hills are areas that seem to get more of the windblown stuff getting stuck in fences and that kind of thing. Johnson asked if we have anyone doing the Cambridge-Isanti trail. Everett said that could potentially be covered by whoever we have at Bluebird, and it is one of the areas that Public Works gets out to right away. Garvey asked if we had numbers that each group is anticipating. Everett said that she doesn't have those yet, but New Hope did share that they're having a community outreach day on the same day so they'll have a lot of people available. Flagship said they'll probably have four or five, so we'll have a wide range. Everett said there may be some light landscaping we can have people work on too; Public Works spends time in the spring raking the woodchips back into the playgrounds and things. Everett stated that the clean up will happen before the next meeting, so she'll give an update on how it goes. The clean up is April 21st, Saturday, from 10:00 to noon. It's the same day as Citywide Clean Up.

5. Parks Updates

Everett shared that March movie night went well with Heavenly Sunshine, there were 67 people. The last movie night is in April with the Isanti Ambassadors; they haven't volunteer at movie night before. The 2018-2019 schedule is up as well as the updated volunteer policy.

The community garden is almost full. Everett received a call that afternoon from someone who said they'd come in to sign up that day, but they didn't so far. Within the next couple of days, she expects they'll be in. Johnson asked if there are still 5 plots. Everett said there are; there are two sets of two plots and a single one, so really if we get three more gardeners we can fill those. There are four raised beds that are reserved and there are two more that we can put up if we need them. If they don't get reserved, we may put them in the area for the Public Health program. The garden opens May 12, and there will be a meeting for the gardeners on May 10. Everett explained that she just talked with Public Works about the pollinator section too.

Everett said that rain garden workshop is coming up April 19, which is before the next meeting as well. Soil and Water is putting together a Powerpoint presentation for that. Everett has received some phone calls from people interested in coming and shared the information at the Master Gardeners' Burst into Spring event. It is open to all County residents, so anyone can come to learn about rain gardens, and there will be a section at the end to talk about the reimbursement program.

Everett stated that staff are working on interviewing Parks Intern candidates, and there have been some good candidates so far.

Everett updated the board on the Farmers' Market. There has been one new big vegetable vendor that signed up for two booths for the whole season. She did find out that Shoua, who has been a regular of the

market will not be back this year. She is at another market every other day of the week, and is hoping that she can get some extra help and maybe come back next year. Everett also sent out emails to a bunch of people listed on Minnesota Grown and is starting to get responses to that. A fair number of last year's vendors have their forms in as well. Now that we can kind of advertise it as a quickly growing market, word is getting out on its own as well as Everett can tell people that this location will be successful for them. There is a vendor meeting at the end of April for anyone who is signed up or interested in signing up.

Everett stated that the sponsorship program has gone out. There have been a couple of quick bites on that, and she will send reminders out before that is due. Allina is on board to help us out again. They've been really great about that. Last year, they gave us a basket to go with the Passport to Parks prize, too. They're always a great resource to have for a lot of the things we do.

Everett added that the City finally owns Academy Park. We will be installing a segment of fence between the storm pond and the open field; Everett is working on bids for that. All of the signage is going up as well. The park has a playground and tennis court which give us another amenity on that side of Hwy 65.

Garvey said she thought we may have discussed them in the past, but was wondering about the lights in Bluebird Park that are on at night. Is there a specific timing schedule that we're following? Are they our lights? She seems them on now. Everett asked if she meant the street lights. Garvey clarified she's talking about the lights that are over where the skatepark equipment is now and the pleasure rink. She added that for many months it's not utilized, so she's wondering why they're coming on. Everett said she would have to check about how those are set up. She thought they were set up to run on a sensor but then shut off after park hours, but there might not be a seasonal option. We should be able to manually shut them off in the winter. Wimmer said they shouldn't be on at all, period. They were put up specifically for hockey when we had the agreement with the youth hockey association and then they were supposed to shut them off when they were done with practice. Everett stated that now they're over the skate equipment and she has had people call and ask about them not being on. Wimmer said that we don't need to have lights on the skate equipment. Garvey said that's why she was wondering because they're on every night and they go off at 10:00. Everett confirmed that's park hours. Garvey stated that they're on all winter long, and asked to clarify if they're City lights. Everett and Wimmer confirmed that they are. Garvey said that to her it's wasting electricity when the equipment can't be used. She would like to see if we can establish more of a definitive schedule for the lights. She did think that at it used to be with the hockey rink that whoever was using it could turn them on or off. Everett explained that, she thought it was just last year, we got those ones and the ones at Unity switched to sensors because people would flip them on and then they didn't get shut off again. Garvey said that this is something she'd like to bring back and just get more definitive. Wimmer stated that he'd give the definitive; they're not supposed to be on. Most likely they'll be moved when we do the rink over on the other side. He doesn't know why they were every switched to the other thing, we don't put lights over anything else. They were only over hockey because it was part of that agreement.

Wimmer stated for the park tour, he'd like a park ambassador kind of thing where each board member takes a couple of the parks and then we check them out before the April meeting. He added that when we go through them and see if there's equipment that needs to be fixed or isn't being used, whatever it could be. We make suggestions about updates to be made or something needs to be changed or what have you. There's no way we could through all the parks in a couple of hours and actually be thorough. We could spend a meeting just at Legacy and River Bluff, each of those alone. He stated that Everett would still like to be out at a park which is a nice idea, depending on the weather. That was his idea to divvy those up and then we have a month to look at them. Johnson asked when the park tour was; Wimmer stated at the April meeting. Johnson asked for clarification about where the meeting would be. Wimmer stated that in the past we would meet at City Hall and do the pledge and approving the minutes and then drive to all the parks and spend maybe five minutes at each one. Garvey said that she likes the change and it's worth a

shot because the old way isn't working anymore. The board discussed the parks and made the following assignments:

- Mayor Wimmer – Legacy Park and River Bluff Preserve
- Jenny Garvey – Riverside Park, Bluebird Park, and Unity Park
- Jeff Johnson – Mattson Park and VFW Park
- James Witte – Rum River Meadows and Isanti Hills Neighborhood Park (formerly Tot Lot)
- Aaron Zdon – Whisper Ridge and Academy Park

Garvey wanted to clarify that we'd only meet in one place. Wimmer stated that we would just meet in one place. Everett stated that she can also send out a list of what kinds of things to look for. Everett asked if everyone has been to Academy Park and if wanted to have the meeting there. Wimmer stated that we can go there, weather permitting. Garvey asked if there's any sort of shelter there; Wimmer stated that there is not, that's why it has to be pretty good weather; Everett said we could just default to having the meeting here. Wimmer said we should publish that the meeting will be held there and then just start there instead of meeting here and driving there. Legally, the meeting has to be where we say it is, so if we do that even if there's bad weather we have to do it there. Garvey asked if the building would be open; Everett said she could look into it. Everett asked how far in advance we have to post it. Wimmer said that we'll have to check. Everett said that having the meeting out there isn't totally necessary; we can just ask everyone to drive by to see Academy Park. The board clarified that the whole meeting will be held be in Council Chambers and each member will to go Academy Park in addition to their assignments before the next meeting. Wimmer explained to Johnson since he hasn't been through this process yet, that all of these ideas will go into the "hopper" and they'll be addressed by priority and budget. In the last year and half, quite a few things have been addressed. Everett explained that she has already received the new diggers for Isanti Hills.

6. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Katie Everett
Community Events and Parks Coordinator