

**CITY OF ISANTI
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
April 25, 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 Witte to approve the April 25, 2017 Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Agenda. Motion was unanimously approved.

2. Approval of Minutes from March 28, 2017 Parks, Recreation and Culture Board Meeting.

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

3. Annual Park Tour

A. Unity Park – Everett explained that Public Works will be doing some maintenance to the ballfield soon. They will scrape the edge where kind of a bowl has been created and grass is creeping in, and more crushed limestone will be brought in. A drag has been purchased. Zdon asked if it would be kept at the field; Everett said she had thought about that and didn't know yet because a lot of our things tend to disappear when they are left out, but she had talked to Public Services Director Wood who had also discussed getting some bases to rent out. Zdon explained that a lot of fields will have a box with those kinds of items in them that is locked. Everett said she'll look into this option here. The group also looked at the new park sign that is now posted on the backstop.

B. Bluebird Park – The board started at the skate park equipment that has been moved to the cement slab. Everett explained which boards have been replaced and that Public Works has been able to do more sections than originally planned already this year. There will be a couple more of the panels coming, and when those are delivered Public Works will close the equipment for a few more days to replace the panels on the bigger ramp. Zdon stated that there are still a few of the bars from the hockey boards sticking up out of the cement that should get ground off so no one catches on them. The group then walked over to the rain garden. Everett explained that there are some existing plants that have not come up yet, like the black eyed susans which are later season plants. More plants will be coming on May 8 to fill in more spaces. Public Works will also be added new mulch, and we are experimenting with types of mulch that won't wash away. Everett also stated that the gutter seams on the Indoor Arena have not been sealed and a vent stack that was knocked over by snow is fixed. The group then walked back to the Bluebird playground area to discuss park signs and determined that rather than getting one large sign somewhere in the park, we should post something like a 4'x2' sign at each end of 1st Avenue entering the park and a 2'x2' where the trail enters from 3rd Avenue. If there is not one of the park rules signs near the playground equipment, the board recommended posting one on the pavilion, and it could be positioned to

still direct people toward the public restroom like the sign currently posted near the skate park equipment. The group thought that the Bike/Walk Trail signs should be updated to match the new signs and decided to discuss what goes on them at a later time.

C. Legacy Park – Park Board members met at the new gate and discussed that it seems so far like the gate is helping, but it may be that it's still early in the season so we will keep an eye on the activity in the park. There were some tire tracks present, so it does appear that someone way be driving around the gate still. Mayor Wimmer stated that because they will now be trespassing if anyone sees this happening, they need to call the Police Department right away so they can handle it while it's happening. Everett explained that Earth Day was a success with 17 people at Legacy cleaning up and about 15 over at River Bluff. They didn't find a ton of trash, which she took as a good sign; and the best benefit was that many of them had never been there before and intended to come back once they saw it.

D. Riverside Park – The Board members had a discussion about the picnic tables which are constantly being moved under the equipment. One was placed under the glider. Garvey asked if we thought it was there so that kids could reach the handles, and maybe if we find some way to have a step up if the kids would stop putting the table there. The group also noticed that the second table was underneath equipment that did have steps, so that may or may not be effective. Everett stated that this equipment is more "big kid equipment" anyway, except the toddler equipment. Wimmer stated that there had been discussions in the past about moving that equipment closer to the main playground so it wasn't so far away, and the group agreed the current location is awkward for parents who might have kids playing at both to be able to watch everyone.

E. River Bluff Preserve – Mayor Wimmer and Everett explained that they went on a walk through with Wood and will be doing some maintenance on a washout on the trail between the dock and Martin's Landing where ATVs have eroded the shoreline. Everett explained that the garden is over half reserved at this point and more people have been coming in this week to reserve spaces. A new shed will be delivered next week; Public Works has tilled once already and will till the plots again before the season opens. Everett explained that they have money budgeted for a kids area so she is planning to have a place for them to dig with signs showing bugs to look for and that kind of thing, planting some shorter sunflowers, as well as some tomatoes and cucumbers that kids can help grow with any produce going to the Senior Dining program. Everett asked how much of the remaining space could be used for the Planting for Pollinators program coming up and explained that she could potentially get a seed mix to cover the whole space, depending on what it costs. She reminded the board members that the space was originally intended to be room for more beds as they're needed and didn't know if the pollinator plants would be missed if they were taken out to make more room. Wimmer asked if Everett would be growing pumpkins again this year, and she said she could also do that, but thought since we have the pollinator program scheduled, she wanted to get the board's opinion about how to use the space.

F. Rum River Meadows – Everett stated that Public Works will be getting the volleyball net back up soon. Zdon asked if that was well used last year, and Wimmer said he saw a number of people using it, but it wasn't a high traffic area. Everett stated that the City has been dealing with some dog feces issues on the empty lot to the west of the playground; Wimmer explained that the dog owners have been fined and the issue is on going. Everett explained that otherwise, the park equipment is good shape right now. The group discussed that this is a park that is used often.

G. Isanti Hills Neighborhood Park – Everett explained that she will be getting the sign replaced with the new name, and they may move the sign to the corner and position it so it can be seen better from the two more highly used entrances. Garvey also asked if we had ever thought about putting small signs out at the sidewalk indicating that the park was there. The board members thought this would be a good idea. The group discussed getting new tables and benches for the park and determined that the current benches are okay for now and we could potentially get two new tables for under the pavilion, but thought this may not be high priority.

H. Whisper Ridge – Everett stated what when she was out on Monday she noticed a lot of trash in the area. She didn't know if she was more aware of it because it was very windy and things were blowing around or if there was more trash than usual. Wimmer asked that we make sure Public Works gets out to

clean it up. Zdon stated that he knew his son and a group of friends had been out using the basketball court, so at least it is being used.

I. Mattson Park – The board members discussed how this park is one of the worst in terms of vandalism within the city and it's an ongoing problem. With the tables that got painted last year, they thought it would not be a good investment to put brand new tables in this park at this point that will likely be damaged. The benches and tables around the park are currently in good condition; the ones under the pavilion are in the worst condition, but the board felt they should not be replaced at this time. Everett explained that the basketball court is still in pretty good shape and Zdon stated that this one gets used all the time too. Wimmer asked about the tennis court resurfacing; Everett stated that we can't fill the cracks now and resurfacing will be about a \$14,000 project, so it will be budgeted for next year.

Due to time, the group decided not to visit VFW Park and wrapped up the meeting at Mattson Park.

J. VFW Park – Everett stated that this park is in kind of the same condition it always is and she will order a smaller sign to mount on the fence there.

4. Parks and Program Updates

Everett explained that there were 19 in attendance at the last movie night, and considering that it was really nice outside that day that was a good number. Rum River BMX will be hosting Nationals on May 11-14, and they have been working with the City to make sure there aren't any surprises this year. Celebrate Isanti planning is under way and sign up for the run/walk and bike ride is open online. The Cultivate Wellness Sponsorships are coming in, and Everett will send a reminder email this week. The compost site did open over the weekend and collects leaves and grass from City of Isanti residents.

5. Adjournment

Motion by Witte, second by Garvey to adjourn the April 25, 2017 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board. Motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 25th day of April, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,



Katie Everett
Community Events and Parks Coordinator