

**CITY OF ISANTI
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
April 26, 2016
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 Wimmer, and Aaron Zdon

Staff Present: Katie Everett, Community Events and Parks Coordinator

D. Agenda Modifications.

Zdon asked if there were any agenda modifications. Bergwick stated that her last Park Board meeting will be in May because she is moving to Mankato.

Motion by Garvey, second by Wimmer to approve the April 26, 2016 Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Agenda. Motion was unanimously approved.

2. Approval of Minutes from February 23, 2016 Parks, Recreation and Culture Board Meeting.

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

3. Annual Park Tour

- A. Eagle Park – Bergwick noted that the bench on one table had been replaced, but the others need maintenance. There is graffiti scratched into them and they need to be painted. Everett noted that one of the tables will temporarily be moved to the community garden until grant money is received to purchase one for that site. Wimmer noted that he will also be going to the Rotary Club for possible funds for the new park. The group noted that Eagle Park has come a long way and is looking much better than it did several years ago. Everett showed an example of a park sign to be considered in the future that would indicate Eagle Park is the site of the Farmer's Market.
- B. VFW Park – Zdon noted that eventually the sand needs to be replaced. Garvey questioned why the grill is tucked back in the corner by the fence. The group decided that the grill should be moved to a better location and recommended the center of the fence line, as well as moving the picnic table closer to the grill.

Wimmer asked Garvey if she knew of any best practices addressing citizens being able to access parks in a city without having to cross major roadways or going more than a certain distance. Garvey stated that she was not aware of one standard, and she believes that each city decides what works best for them. She recommended contacting MRPA staff and members to find out if there is something available.

- C. Whisper Ridge – Wimmer noted that we have obtained forfeited parcels nearby. He also explained that there is not enough money to resurface the whole tennis court and it will be best to do something different with the space. Garvey suggested that pickleball is gaining popularity and lines can just be added to existing tennis courts to create multiple uses of one space. Wimmer

noted that Cambridge is already going to be adding some pickleball courts. The group noted that the fence added recently on the park boundary seems to have helped, Wimmer stated that he has not received any additional complaints in some time from the resident about people crossing his property line, but we will continue to evaluate the situation this summer.

Wimmer explained a long term plan to have Whisper Ridge connected by a trail through the wetland to downtown Isanti, and this development should be tied in with the refurbishing of Whisper Ridge.

- D. Tot Lot – Garvey asked if we could change the name, “Tot Lot” doesn’t seem to reflect what is actually available at the park. Wimmer explained that the park naming policy has been updated so that the City could name parks without having to do the previously required naming contests which have not gotten much of a response in the past. The park needs a new sign anyway, so this is the time to do it. Wimmer requested that everyone bring name ideas to the next Park Board meeting and we can discuss it there. Nails were found protruding from the sand retaining wall near the sign. Garvey and Wimmer noted that the wood in place is a good system because it can be easily fixed and replaced. The group also noted that the grill in this location is inconvenient if people actually wanted to use it, and requested that it be moved closer to the shelter. Garvey noted that the bench in the sand is very low, the group agreed that it should be raised. Wimmer requested that the Tot Lot shelter be added to the pavilion rental form if it is not already there; Garvey stated that we should also have pictures of all of the pavilions available online and with the form to promote their use to the public.
- E. Rum River Meadows – Garvey stated that whenever new mulch is added it just gets pushed aside because the swings become too close to the ground. Zdon noted that the single swings are high enough and it must be older kids kick the mulch out of the way. Wimmer stated safety concerns about the ways bench swings get used in the park and the group noted that the mulch under that swing was displaced as well. Garvey suggested that we might evaluate how many swings are available in each park and offer different height swings to accommodate different users. Wimmer stated that we have looked into putting in a volleyball court in the past and it was prohibitively expensive to get insurance and very complicated. Everett asked if it was possible to just have a grass volleyball court; Garvey stated that she has seen it done with temporary posts where there are sleeves in the ground (capped over winter) that the poles fit into. Everett will research the logistics of a grass volleyball court in this location. Zdon found broken glass all over the mulch under the play equipment as well several piles of dog feces. Zdon, Bergwick, and Garvey noted that it appeared to be from a dog that was habitually allowed off leash in the neighborhood.
- F. River Bluff Preserve/Isanti Community Garden – Everett and Wimmer updated the members about the progress of the park, noting the future location of trails, the stairway, and the dock. The community garden is going to open to renters on May 14th. The parking lot work will begin very soon.
- G–K. Wimmer needed to leave the meeting so he gave a verbal update of the plan for Legacy Park – the access road will be closed off with a gate. While people may still drive around, they will be ticketed for doing. This should alleviate many of the issues with illegal behaviors in the park. Premier Bank has agreed to the temporary change.

Bluebird Park: Skate Park – the hockey rink boards will be sold, and the skate park equipment will be moved to the cement slab. In the future, a rink will be built with wooden boards that are easier to fix and replace.

After Wimmer left, the group discussed the remaining agenda items, but did not visit Riverside, Legacy, Bluebird, or Mattson parks.

(Skate Park) Zdon asked if the skate equipment was moved to the cement slab if we would still be able to use Park Dedication Fund dollars to get more equipment. He stated that the plan had been to use Park Dedication money to build a new skate park at that location, but is concerned that if we move the equipment we have, we might not be eligible for those funds. The group didn't know the answer, Everett will look into it. Garvey wondered if bikes using the skate equipment has caused some of the issues with crowding, Zdon noted that it is stated on the sign that bikes are not allowed, but believes that if there is more equipment available, those issues will get better.

Bluebird: Broken Climbing Equipment – Garvey recommended looking into prices for the repair or new equipment through other companies. Bergwick and Zdon agreed that it is a lot of money to spend on just a small piece of the equipment. Everett explained that it is unlikely that Public Works will be able to fix it even if we do order the part, and we have not received confirmation from the company that they can come out to make the repair.

Bluebird Park: Redbirds Agreement – Garvey made a motion that the Redbirds cease using the field until an agreement is signed. Bergwick seconded the motion, the motion was carried unanimously.

Everett showed the group options for redoing the hopscotch on the path at Bluebird Park. She found a daisy-shaped hopscotch stencil and stencils for kids' activities online. Garvey stated that she is not sure much kids really play hopscotch, Bergwick state that in her experience kids do play, but it's more just jumping on the squares than really playing the game. The group liked the idea of having the activity stencil, but would like to see if there are more affordable options or different packages available.

Mattson Park – Everett asked whether the group thought equipment should be available for rental at the park. The horseshoe pits have been cleaned up, and had become overgrown in the first place because they never get used. Bergwick was concerned about having anything that would stay out at the park due to the vandalism that has happened in the past. Everett explained that equipment could potentially be stored at City Hall and picked up there for use. Garvey stated that bean bags are becoming very popular as well and may be a good rental option. Zdon stated that it is a low cost investment. Garvey stated that it may be difficult for people to make it during City Hall business hours to rent equipment, but that it is a good thing to offer the community. Possible equipment included a basketball, horseshoes, and tennis rackets (depending on cost). Some sort of deposit would be made to ensure equipment is returned.

6. Adjournment

Motion by Zdon, second by Bergwick to adjourn the April 26, 2016 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board. Motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 26th day of April, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Everett
Community Events and Parks Coordinator