

**CITY OF ISANTI  
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
July 24, 2018  
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, Jeff Johnson, James Witte, Aaron Zdon, and Mayor Wimmer

**Staff Present:** Katie Everett, Parks, Recreation, and Culture Manager

**D. Agenda Modifications.**

Zdon asked if there were any agenda modifications; there were none. Motion by Garvey, second by Wimmer to approve the agenda for the July 24, 2018 Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Meeting.

**2. Approval of Minutes from June 26, 2018 Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Meeting**

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

**3. Activity Stencils – Academy Park**

Everett explained reminded the Board what the stencils look like. A while back we had found that we couldn't get the same hopscotch for Bluebird and the Park Board decided to get the activity stencils in place of those. Public Work will be putting them out at Bluebird. There are two places where the trail comes up to the playground, so we're going to do a circuit out of the playground, onto the trail, and back into the playground. They'll do that in the next couple of weeks. We're wondering, so we get enough paint, if we should do something similar at Academy Park. Everett went out with Erickson, the summer intern, and found that it will take use the area from the curve around the playground. If the Board is interested in doing that, we will do that. Garvey said that she thinks it's a great addition. Zdon said that now that we have them it's just paint and staff time, so it's a pretty affordable thing to add in. Everett added that we should be able to reuse the stencils many times to touch them up in the future as well. Johnson asked what the stencils say. Everett said that there is one that says tightrope, one that is stones so it says step, another is log and that says jump, there's a snake that says tiptoe, one is a crab crawl, and there are ants that say march. Everett will let Public Works know to put the stencils at Academy Park as well. They will use street paint, so we'll have blue, white, and yellow paint. Some of the stencils need two colors to look right.

**4. Fir Street Parcel Planning Timeline**

Everett stated that she provided a second page with scale for a shelter included. She added that those pictures are just meant to give visuals for what existing things in that space would be. The stage the Board is in now, is for them to choose options for Everett to look into further. She will then come back with those ideas mostly as an information piece until future planning allows for the project to move forward. A basketball court fills up most of the distance from front to back, and then there's some extra space on the sides which could give a buffer for those houses. Or if we put in a shelter, there's an idea in the picture of what space we have to work with. Witte said he thinks a basketball court or exercise equipment. He's not sure if a shelter or grill would be used. He doesn't see people using the charcoal grills as often. Garvey and Zdon agreed, and Zdon mentioned that people probably have their own grills at home. Zdon stated that he likes the idea of exercise equipment and/or a shelter. There's a basketball court around the corner not too far from there, that actually does get used. He mentioned that his son goes there, but he's not sure how many other people are

using it. Zdon said that some outdoor exercise equipment would be good, that stuff is pretty cool. Mayor Wimmer added that we'd be looking at exercise equipment for the trails on the other side of 65, so maybe there's something that could tie together doing that at the same time as this one. Zdon said maybe there could be some savings if we bought two of each instead of one of each. Witte asked if we'd still send out a survey to the neighborhood. Everett clarified that at some point in the future we can send out a survey that says "These are the options that the City has found feasible, and we want your feedback before moving forward." That's kind of what we're looking at. Garvey said that it's hard to predict the future because there's going to be another great idea down the road that we don't know about yet, but bocce ball is an area that other cities are getting into with permanent courts. Everett added that the casual yard game idea is coming around right now. Garvey said that there are concrete cornhole or bean bag games too, since horseshoes are kind of on their way out. She said she doesn't necessarily want to put in concrete ones because it might be obsolete in ten years, but that type of thing. She said there are also special bocce "courts." Wimmer said that the biggest suggestion we get is pickleball. Cambridge has done that, and they've actually started teaching that in school. If we're looking at different type of court that we get a lot of requests on, that would be it. Zdon said it wouldn't have to be centered, it could be to one side and you'd still have room for a shelter and some exercise equipment or something depending on the budget. Garvey said that if we get into a basketball court, or a court like this, it increases the cost significantly; but whereas we have more of a passive type of activity, the cost might not be as high. She agrees that pickleball and basketball are huge right now. The board commented that pickleball might just be a trend. Garvey said that maybe we do a surface that could be multipurpose. It could be something with different stripes for a multipurpose structure. She said she knows we're in the very beginning stages, but those different ideas to start getting cost ideas. Johnson mentioned that there are lot of little kids in that area, from 4 to 12 years of ages. He doesn't know if we can focus on something for them; we're kind of focusing on adult activities more than kids. He's been through there and there a ton of little kids. Zdon said that their nearest playground is what used to be the Tot Lot; Wimmer added that Rum River is close too. Wimmer stated that what we have run into with the play parks is that yeah, they're there now, but 3 years from now they have no interest in doing it. That's why we've tried to mix up with just active space kind of stuff. Everett stated that in her outdoor education experience, if you give kids outdoor space and tell them to entertain themselves, they will. Sometimes just an open space is kind of the best thing, and then people can use it the way they want to instead of being restricted. Garvey said that a lot of the lots around there are smaller where the kids don't have that space they need. It'd be two or three yards wide that they'd need to get a kickball game going or something, so she likes the idea of open space. She mentioned that playground equipment really ups the cost too. Johnson asked if those are the exact measurements. Everett said that they're not; they're just as close as she could get on GIS, but the property lines are not exact in that program. Johnson said it's a pretty large area, there's just the light post and electrical box. Everett stated that to get exact dimensions we'd have to get a survey done and that costs money. This gives us an idea. She said for now, she'll look into options for a multiuse court, maybe there's a cool version of a yard game set up – more of a passive thing, and exercise equipment that could maybe be incorporated into both places. Witte said that he assumes there's exercise equipment for children too. Everett said that there definitely is, and there are some really fun kind of ninja warrior things out now too. Some of those have kid versions up to adult elements in them.

Everett stated that this will come back in the fall; she'll put together some mock-ups for the board. Then we'll just kind of leave it there for now. We're working on doing some comp plan stuff in the next couple of years, so if it makes sense maybe we can do it with some of that. But we don't really want to get it out there until we have money to do it.

## **5. Parks Updates**

Everett said that we're in the thick of things. Passport to Parks is still open. She's hoping to get a lot more of those in. There are a lot out in circulation, and she's had people tell her they're working them. We are planning to split the Grand Prize into three drawings this year. The first 100 people still get their prize when they turn them in. They're due August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The July street dance went well. Jonah and the Whales are great to work with. They commented that they love coming here and our crowd is always awesome. She has actually gotten that comment from our food vendors and other bands that they love coming to Isanti because people here are really respectful and everyone is having a good time. It's great to hear that about our community.

Everett provided the schedule for Celebrate Isanti in the agenda. If the board knows of any groups that want to be involved to let her know. She just got the soccer club's registration so they will be there. BMX is planning to be open during the kids festival so people can at least see inside the arena. Public Works has some really cool things going on this year too. They're bringing over all the plow blades for us, and people will get to see the plow. They have a semi trailer with a simulator in it that people will be able to go in and kind of test drive some of the equipment that Public Works uses. That was a partnership with the union, so they're trying to get more people involved with labor jobs as well, but it's at no cost to us. It's a cool chance for people to see what Public Works does for the City. The race is being chip-timed this year. We're still looking for more registrations, but we're getting there. The link is on website. There's a whole page on the website with the detailed event information, so people can be directed there if they have questions, or they can contact Everett. The Street Dance is Bad Girlfriends. The car show is expecting a really good turnout; there used to be a car show in Oak Grove that they're not doing this year. Staff ordered some sunglasses for the event as well.

The farmers market is going really well this year. As of this week, we are almost \$200 over our total vendor revenue from last year. And we are 9 out of 19 weeks through the season. It's hard to compare just vendor numbers because we have more new vendors that signed up for full seasons or half seasons this year. It's not a great comparison since we had many vendors just come once or twice last year. As far as how many booths have been full, we're well ahead of last year.

Everett stated that the cedar tree revetment was approved by City Council. The tentative schedule is for that work to be done in October. They will probably deliver the trees the week before. Everett will give an update on that as it gets closer.

Everett had sent out park project emails with updates. VFW park is complete and they're working on Mattson Park this week. We are going to hold off on Bluebird; it has taken longer than anticipated to get more mulch so we want to make sure the park looks good for Celebrate Isanti.

**6. Adjournment**

Motion by Witte, second by Johnson to adjourn the July 24, 2018 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board. Motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 24<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,



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Katie Everett  
Parks, Recreation, and Culture Manager