

**CITY OF ISANTI
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
May 26, 2015**

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: Maddie Anderson, Jamie Bergwick, Jennifer Garvey, Mayor Wimmer (arrived at 6:07), Lynn True and Aaron Zdon.

Members Absent: None

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

D. Agenda Modifications.

Zdon asked if there were any. True stated she would like to add to the agenda discussion of cars leaving the parking lots at the soccer fields.

Motion to approve the agenda by Garvey. Second by Bergwick. Vote was unanimously approved.

2. Approval of Minutes from April 28, 2015 Park, Recreation and Culture Board Meeting.

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

3. Public Hearing

None.

4. Updates from Annual Park Tour
Isanti Tot Lot Park

Wood stated she wanted to point out some items that staff was able to address of which was pointed out by the Board during the annual park tour last month.

Wood stated that it was identified that the bench was hazardous and could cause liability and injury issues. The bench has been removed and replaced. Wood stated there was a bench in storage and she was working to make contact with the Lions and also the Rotary Club to hopefully get some benches donated. The Rotary Club had donated some benches in the past. Wood stated she also did put in the costs for bench replacements in the capital outlay budget for 2016 during a finance committee meeting.

Wood stated she wanted to let the Board know that with the Tot Lot there were some costs in repairing or replacing equipment. She stated the log roll which was taken out last year and then the platform noticed this year along with the broken slide came to a cost of \$5000 plus freight. Wood stated some items may not be able to be replaced with exactly what was there because the equipment was getting so old. She stated that when she looked at the schedule for replacement it said the equipment here at the tot lot and later we'll discuss the VFW park was at the end of its life expectancy in 2016. The Tot Lot is showing much more wear because it is in the full sun. Wood asked if the Board had discussed what to do with this park prior or if the Board had any thoughts on what to do long term with this park.

This brought up later but part of this earlier discussion... Bergwick asked if we were going to replace the logroll or put something else there.

Wood stated yes we were not going to put in the logroll but to put something there would have a cost associated with it. Other discussions were held regarding what could replace the log roll.

Zdon asked what was the life expectancy of that playground equipment.

Wood stated 20-30 years for that type of equipment.

Zdon stated that that park can't be that old.

Wood stated on the schedule she looked at for insurance, the park was installed in 1996.

Zdon asked if that was specifically for that playground equipment.

Wood stated the schedule she was referring to was an insurance document of depreciation that listed it as equipment purchased in 1996 but she did not have a specific listing of each equipment item.

Bergwick asked about options and asked that the tax money that the City receives for parks is only for new parks and not to replace and repair.

Wood stated yes. The park dedication funds can only be used for new parks.

Zdon stated we would need to budget for replacing or repairs.

Wood stated she did put these items costs in the capital outlay budget request during the finance committee meeting but other items will continue to degrade over time. Wood asked if the Board had previously discussed what to do with that park.

Zdon said they had not.

Bergwick said she remembered talking that a bunch of parks went up about the same time and would start breaking down all about the same time.

Wood stated that she just wanted the Board to know the status and she would let them know what happens through budgeting. If it gets cut, then we will need to make a couple decisions because it will continue to be unsafe.

VFW Park

Wood stated VFW was also at the end of its life expectancy as she mentioned prior but it was looking in fairly good condition. Wood stated she wanted the Board to be aware that the VFW was inquiring about putting up some volleyball courts. Staff, Roxanne Achman, was working with them to get specifics and Wood would let the Board know of any developments.

Whisper Ridge Park

Wood stated if you look at the map in the packet. The Board had discussed which was also recommended at finance committee to put up a 6 foot fence at the corner of Mr. Morrell's property to meet the fence that divides Mr. Morrell's property with his neighbor. It was also discussed that the 4 foot high fence would need to be converted or replaced with a 6 foot fence to not encourage people to jump the fences to go through Mr. Morrell's or his neighbor's yard. Wood stated she was then made aware that his neighbor is

who paid to install that 4 foot fence. Wood stated she was still working to find a solution for this problem and would keep the Board posted.

Rum River Meadows Park

Wood stated that it was observed during the park tour that there were some bolt covers missing or broken on the toddler equipment. She said she was getting those ordered to replace. Wood stated she had also found that the curved slide on the toddler equipment had a crack where the bracket anchors the slide to the ground. Wood stated she just got confirmation that that slide was no longer covered under warranty. Wood stated that would be something we need to look at replacing.

Riverside Park

Wood stated that someone noticed that the bullet wasn't sliding properly. That has been fixed.

Bluebird Park

Wood stated the new signs that will help people to know there are public bathrooms at the Isanti Indoor Arena are in and will be installed very soon. Wood stated she is still working on getting a monument sign for the Isanti Indoor Arena. She needs to go out for a new contractor and bids.

Wood stated she was notified by Ron Fleming that there are three bluebird nests in the new boxes in the park.

5. Updates

Wood stated the classic car shows Wednesday nights on Main Street and their summer spectacular August 15th was approved by Council.

Wood stated Council will be reviewing the request by the Rodeo to use the bleachers from Unity Ball field and to close the Ball field during the Rodeo which has been done in many years.

Wood stated the Downtown Street Dances have been approved.

Wood stated that the Vision Wake was granted an extension to continue working to restore the land which goes through today. They are still working to meet that timeline. Wood stated Jason from Bolton and Menk did go out there to assess that they were on the right track and they were.

Wood stated the City was awarded the \$500 from the Partnership in Healthy Living Minigrant to use towards bike racks.

Bergwick asked how many bike racks that would cover.

Wood stated it depended on how bike the rack was but we were looking at two. Wood stated it may also be worthwhile to contact a school or other group to have it be a service project and we supply materials.

6. Allowing Vendor Fairs or Flea Markets in Parks

Wood stated that there was a request that came in to have a vendor or craft fair out of one of our parks, particularly Bluebird Park. This is currently not allowed. To allow it would require us to amend section 11 and potentially section 13 of our zoning ordinance to allow it within parks and open spaces. As stated in the requirements of the special event application process, it is to follow standards allowed by the zoning ordinance. Wood stated we already have a great alternative location which is our community center which you can have the fair inside or outside.

Wimmer stated we will run into a number of issues if we start to allow businesses in our parks.

Bergwick asked how often this request comes up.

Wood stated this is the first time she has heard of it. Wood stated she just wanted to clarify to make sure the Board was still in the position to not want to allow it so she could confidently let people know if further requests come in.

There was more discussion regarding the implications allowing vendors in the park would have.

Motion by Garvey to continue to not allow fairs in the parks. Second by Bergwick. Motion was unanimously approved.

7. Redbirds Building/ Content Insurance

Wood stated she talked with Cindy, Redbirds President, because they had a window shot out with a bb gun but she said they were not going to make a claim because it would probably be the same as the deductible. It raised the issue of who carries insurance for the Redbirds and Wood wondered why we would be paying for insurance for the Redbirds. Wood stated in a similar case such as the Soccer Club, we carry their insurance but they pay us back. Wood stated as was written in the memo, the City carries their building insurance and there is no agreement we have that requires them to pay or carry their own. Wood stated that they do not even have liability insurance; they have their ball players sign a waiver. Wood stated she worries if someone was to fall off the bleachers, they would sue the City. We have the Soccer Club carry their own liability but for some reason we don't require them to. Wood stated she was looking to the Board on whether or not we should enter into a formal agreement with the Redbirds stating what we would require going forward.

Wimmer stated we are going to have to have an agreement with them. The other Board members agreed.

Wood stated she was surprised to find out there wasn't liability covered on their part.

Bergwick asked who would be responsible if someone did fall off the bleachers and broke their leg.

Wood stated it would be the City.

Garvey stated the liability piece of paper they are signed means nothing. Others agreed.

Bergwick made a motion to approach Redbirds to carry their own liability insurance. Wimmer made a friendly amendment to the motion to also add going into a formal agreement with Redbirds to cover use of property, insurance and other items that we have with other such nonprofits using property of the City. Second by Garvey. Motion was unanimously approved.

7. Acquisition of properties 605 and 607 First St SW

Wimmer stated he wanted this on the agenda because every year we receive a list of properties that goes through tax forfeiture which the DNR gets the first dibs then the City gets second. The area really isn't served by a park. Wimmer stated the Tot Lot and Whisper Ridge is kind of nearby. Wimmer stated he asked the question to Roxanne in the zoning department of whether or not this would be a good location being along a road and wanted to pose the strategic question to the park board on whether we want to start winding down things at Whisper Ridge. Wimmer stated to perhaps put tennis courts on these properties. Wimmer stated in the past it has been talked about getting rid of one at Whisper Ridge. He stated at this point he wasn't saying what should be done but this is available and accessible where it could be policed better and potential allow Whisper Ridge to become green space.

Garvey stated that would be a good idea. Garvey asked if the zoning department thought it would be a good idea to put a park there.

Wimmer stated yes we could put a park there.

Garvey asked if there would be a fee to get the parcels.

Wimmer stated it would be given to us.

Wood stated there would be a small filing fee approximately \$46.00.

Wimmer stated if we do get it, it would remain in parks for perpetuity.

There was some discussion on what could be placed there and how it would alleviate some problems at Whisper Ridge.

Motion by Bergwick to acquire the two properties for park land. Second by True. Motion was unanimously approved.

8. Agenda Modification – Discussion Regarding Traffic coming out of the Soccer Fields

True stated there was another close call with a car coming out of the soccer parking lot and hitting a bicycle. True described how the area is hazardous to the bikers on the trail. True stated to get the car driver's attention there should be markings on the trail to define the trail with stripes or something similar.

Wimmer asked if there was a sign now.

Wood stated there were signs posted last Summer saying there was a trail crossing.

There was discussion regarding whether or not marking the trail or putting up more signs would have an impact on drivers.

Wimmer stated we could certainly look at ways to make it more visible. It may not be too hard to do.

Garvey asked if it was something we could do; if it was city property. She also asked if there were certain requirements because it was a trail.

Wood stated it was on our side of the trail therefore we would be able to define it.

True began to asked specifics on color.

Wimmer stated it would be up to the City engineer to let us know what were industry standards and standards with MNDOT.

There was some more discussion regarding the issue and how it is similar to crosswalks.

Wood wanted to add in one more comment before the end of the meeting. She stated the farmers market starts this Friday at Eagle Park.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Bergwick, second by Garvey to adjourn the May 26, 2015 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board. Motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 26th day of May 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Josi Wood, Community Events and Parks Coordinator