

**CITY OF ISANTI
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 22, 2021**

Call to Order: Aaron Zdon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Members Present: James Witte, Aaron Zdon, Zachary Gahm and Council Member Jimmy Gordon
Staff Present: Alyssa Olson, Parks, Recreation & Events Coordinator, Maizy Burk, Parks, Recreation & Culture Intern, and Mayor Jeff Johnson

Agenda/Modifications: None

2. Meeting Minutes: Motion by Gordon; second by Witte to approve meeting Minutes from April 27, 2021. Motion passed 4-0.

3. Oath of Office: New member Zachary Gahm pronounced the Oath of Office and was officially welcomed to the Board.

4. VFW Park Lease Termination: Olson shared an update on the VFW Park lease termination conversation with the VFW. She relayed that a discussion has taken place with the incoming VFW President who has brought the position to the Post members. Olson is awaiting the decision from the VFW on whether they wish to receive and maintain the playground equipment as a donation or if they would like the City to dismantle the property in terminating the lease agreement.

5. Department Updates: Olson shared updates from May and June events, which have been well-attended. An Adopt-A-Park application has been received and accepted for the Rotary of Cambridge and Isanti. They will begin maintaining Rum River Meadows Park beginning in June through the end of the Park season. New bleachers have been installed at Unity Park. Community Center maintenance was completed and the Isanti Lions are working on getting the oven up to code. Pickleball court has been painted at Mattson Park. The park survey has been distributed to 100+ residents surrounding both Rum River Meadows Park and Isanti Hills Neighborhood Park. Responses are coming in and Maizy is collecting results to be analyzed after the June 30 deadline. Zdon noted the previous survey didn't receive many results so the 50+ received so far is a good improvement.

The Farmers' Market has welcomed a good assortment of vendors, featuring 18-20 through the rest of the season. Attendance has been low, but office staff are taking measures to increase promotion of the weekly markets. First Street Dance was a hit and welcomed an estimated 3000 attendees. The band had a short sound issue at the beginning, but recovered quickly. 8 vendors were onsite and all sold out of most items; they were very pleased with attendance and excited for the next event. Trash was excessive and there was a large number of unsupervised youth in attendance so increased safety and waste measures will be added to the upcoming dates. Medallion Hunt will take place again this year. Maizy is managing the project and coming up with clues and hiding location. She is also connecting with area businesses to secure prizes with a goal of a \$500 value. Olson confirmed they are taking measures to extend the hunt period this year and make the medallion more difficult to find. Fireworks have been scheduled for July 8 following the Jubilee Days parade and 4 food trucks will be present onsite. Splish Splash Summer Bash will take place at Bluebird Park on July 9. This year will feature Kids Dance, a waterslide, slip 'n slide, food trucks, pop bottle rockets, face painting and additional water-based activities. Gahm inquired about having community organizations involved. Olson noted she had connected with a few, but it may not be viable for them to participate this year. The goal is to continue to grow the event for future years and include more participation from local businesses and groups.

Olson shared that the Committee of the Whole, prompted by Councilmember Gordon, has requested research on adding an archery range to the Isanti park offerings. Olson will be looking into options and considerations to share at the July COW meeting, and for the PRC Board in July. The Board had a number of questions regarding safety measures and staffing options, to which Olson will be including in her research. Olson shared that the Performance Center and lighting project in Bluebird Park was approved by the City Council and should be completed in mid-August/early September. Olson noted the goal is to move the September 11 Street Dance to the park, but will depend on construction timeline. Members of the Board had a number of questions regarding the decision to move the Street Dances to the park. Mayor Johnson provided some background on that decision and that it would help with safety measures and event logistics

to be able to use the park instead of the downtown streets. The Board shared concerns about the Street Dances losing their appeal by not being in the street, and that the downtown businesses would not benefit from the move. Olson noted that the businesses downtown don't currently engage in the event and all are closed during it. Zdon shared that bands will want an elevated stage and that should be considered in the height of the Performance Center. Olson noted that the Performance Center was scoped as an amphitheater, which assumes a downward view, but would clarify the height of the cement base. Witte asked about the splash pad plans and if those were to move forward. Olson noted the restrooms and splash pad projects had been postponed, per the Council, and she would be researching those projects more moving into 2022. Mayor Johnson provided some insights into the project from his initial research and stated it is slated to be completed in 2024.

Adjournment: Motion by Witte, second by Gordon to adjourn the June 22, 2021 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board. Motion passed 4-0, meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Alyssa Olson
Parks, Recreation & Events Coordinator