

**CITY OF ISANTI
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
June 26, 2018
City Council Chambers**

1. Meeting Opening.

A. Call to Order.

Garvey 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, and Mayor Wimmer

Members Absent: Aaron Zdon

Staff Present: Katie Everett, Parks, Recreation, and Culture Manager
Ryan Kernosky, Community Development Director

D. Agenda Modifications.

Garvey asked if there were any agenda modifications; there were none. Motion by Witte, second by Johnson to approve the agenda for the May 22, 2018 Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes from May 22, 2018 Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Meeting

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

3. Gap Analysis, Sect I & II of Bike and Pedestrian Plan

Kernosky (Community Development Director) explained that the board had previously received maps to provide input on areas in the City where there are gaps in sidewalks and bike routes. He stated that he is still working on the bike routes, but the sidewalk gap map is included in the packet. We are trying to create connectivity, so we look for where sidewalks and trails end, and where they should be picked up to connect to another portion. Kernosky identified areas A through L and with internal staff and ranked them in priority. It's important to note that just because it's high in priority doesn't mean it's going to get done in the next year. A lot of times when you apply for cycling or trail grants, they want a plan that identifies areas that are a priority. In terms of this, what he's looking for from the board now is any comments or modifications on the gap analysis. Garvey asked if the County roads take precedence over the City roads. Kernosky said that they do not, those are the County's. However, the sidewalks on Heritage are the City's sidewalks, but the curb and road are the County's; the same with Whiskey Road.

Hearing no further comment, Kernosky moved on to the rough draft of Sections I and II of the bike and pedestrian plan. The first section is mainly background information; we talk about the plan, existing policies, and identify areas in those that could be changed to be more consistent throughout the City's Code. Goal 1A: codify existing policies – amend specific ordinances and chapters of the code to make sure there's more consistency. Goal 1B is to provide reasonable alternatives to trail locations, and Goal 1C is to enforce current construction standards on both new and replacement sidewalk and trails. It's straightforward background information so someone down the road can pick it up and understand why we created the plan. It also includes the 2017 trail plan for Isanti County and the prohibited bike rules we have downtown between normal business hours. Section II identifies existing facilities and community assets. It's a true inventory of our current sidewalk, trails, and bike lanes and identifies those in the maps. That helps with future planning to see where they are and where they need to go in the future. Community assets would include parks and recreation facilities, other municipal locations like City Hall and Police Station. We also looked at employment concentrations centers including Downtown, the Industrial Park, and commercial developments.

They're all put into one map, so when we start to look at future sidewalks, trails, and bike paths we can have a clear idea of where they're going and what their purpose serves. Witte asked if as houses are continued to be built on Whiskey approaching the S-curve if the sidewalk will be continued. Kernosky stated that Maplewood Ave will be extended eventually to loop around onto Rum River Drive, and it's included in the Code that sidewalk needs to be part of that. There is no sidewalk on the west side of Whiskey Road passed South Passage, it's just a dirt trail that snowmobiles use. Wimmer added that there is no City right-of-way there, it's just the County. He stated that on the east side of Whiskey there is sidewalk in the newly developed area, but through the last 40 years or so during development there was no solid policy in place about it. In those areas you'll see things like two blocks with sidewalk then two blocks without, and it was really just what the Council at the time thought. In 2005 or 2007 we did a number of things to try to change that, and then updated it in 2008/2009. The Council can at any point change that, but it makes it a little more difficult. That's why there's no sidewalk on the east side of Whiskey. We've talked to those homeowners and some want it and some don't. You'd in essence have to force them to give it up, which is not something we wanted to do there. The County has no right-of-way in there, and from a zoning standpoint it's meets and bounds, so it's kind of a hodgepodge.

Kernosky stated that he hopes to have the future sidewalk and trail map for the board, and there can be further discussion on that. Garvey asked if Kernosky just put the master plan together or if it was in place. Kernosky said it is a new document. It is part of the Comprehensive Plan update which is coming; that plan will have a non-motorized transportation component to it. Instead of having a two or three page portion of it, we might as well have a nice plan that we can follow for the next couple of years. Garvey told Kernosky he's done a great job putting it together.

4. Unity Parking Lot

Everett stated that the board had talked briefly about the wooden posts out at Unity after the park visits, and then Public Services Director/Assistant City Administrator Wood had been out doing some other work. They noticed that the remaining posts are really wobbly, and we're worried that if someone leans on one the wrong way we might run into some problems. The board hadn't decided what we wanted to replace them with, but we'd like to get the go ahead to take out what's there. If the board wants to have discussion about whether we need to have a replacement and what that would be, we can do that too. Garvey asked if we know the history of why they were put in in the first place. Everett said that she thought it was probably to keep cars off the grass, but they've been there for a long time. She said that we could do concrete bumpers if we're concerned about people leaving the lot, or we could wait to see it's a problem before we do something. Garvey stated that she doesn't like the concrete bumpers because it's more of a pain for maintenance to have to go around it, especially for plowing. If we're not plowing it's not a big deal. Everett stated that we did find an agreement and it is being plowed. Wimmer stated that he believed with the parking lot code we have to have some kind of buffer or inevitably you'll have people going there. If we take the wood posts out probably have to have something to put back in, but we can check with Kernosky to know for sure. Garvey agreed that we should probably have something, and the concrete bumpers are probably the cheapest alternative versus putting something similar back in. That would be something to come back with is alternatives and what the cost would be. Maybe we don't need as many bollards in place, or maybe there's another item we can't think of too. We could also strategize some areas that we'd need them in too. Witte asked if the posts are on the west side of the lot. Everett stated that they're between the lot and field. Wimmer stated that he thought there some on the school side too. Everett stated that she doesn't think there's anything between the lot and the street. Witte said that he was there Tuesday night playing church softball and people were parking on the grass between the lot and the school. Everett stated that she isn't sure if it's just our preference or if there's something in code stating that we need to stop that. Garvey stated that she'd like to see it come back with staff recommendation and some cost analysis of the options. Everett asked that if she does find out that we don't have anything stating that we have to have something, are we okay to take these out before we have a replacements? Or is the board's preference still to have a replacement as soon as those come out. Garvey stated that if it's a safety issue she thinks they should come out, and err on the side the safety aspect and at least try to get something in by next summer. Everett stated that she'd look into what the code says and would send an update out if something happens before the next meeting.

5. Fir Street Parcel Planning Timeline

Everett stated that she put together what the Board had discussed in a more concrete timeline. The board mentioned that it would be helpful to talk with the people that would be living around that future park to know what it is they want. Everett plugged in that for July she'd like to get a list of options that the board wants her to spend more time researching. We don't have any decisions that we need to make at this meeting, but in July we can kind of narrow those down into a few options that Everett can price for and that kind of thing. That will give her time before the September meeting to present the costs for each of those and a draft site plan. Then from those options, the board will pick maybe up to 3 that we'd invite the public to choose from. In October, it would be on the regular meeting at the beginning. She included a 750 radius map that she adjusted a little bit to include the whole neighborhood. This gives an idea of who could be included in those invitations, but it can be adjusted however they see fit. Garvey stated that she thinks it's a good timeline and she thinks it's a good range. Witte asked if the board should pick three ideas. Everett said at the July meeting we can throw out all of the ideas and pick 4 or 5 or whatever, and then at the September meeting we will parse that down to what we really want the public to be choosing from. We may find during that process that there are two options that really make sense, it will just take some research. She included the options that were brought up previously including a basketball court or more of a picnic area with a shelter and grills and tables, and maybe a circuit exercise area. Wimmer stated that this won't be in next year's budget, so if we're rolling this out to the public a year and half before anything were to happen, that needs to be taken into consideration. Once you go down that path, people might want to start seeing things happen quicker what would possibly happen. Everett stated that part of this timeline is because of the application that stated that we intended to do something in 3 years, so this is our doing something. Wimmer stated that he is saying that we're going a lot farther down the field that you really need to fulfil that obligation, so if that's the only reason. He's just saying that if you're going to roll it out that way you'll need to have something that the Council has talked about and has planned to do because this isn't in any budget discussions at all. He just wants to make sure that this board knows that as well. Everett stated that we talked about that at the last meeting that it wasn't going to be a 2019 project. She stated that if Wimmer thinks it needs to go out farther, she is fine with that too. Wimmer stated that the planning needs to happen, but the rolling it out to the public with the reduced options is something that might wait. If it is rolled out they need to be made aware that it might a ways out, it'd be important to do that. Everett asked what the Board preferred: to go as far as picking options and then putting it on hold for future comp plan and that kind of thing. Witte agreed that if we show something to the public they're probably going to want to see it within the year. Garvey clarified that the first two items would be done and the third with the public would be down the road, and once we have an idea getting timeline. Then we have at least done the due-diligence of the planning and getting that process started. Witte stated that by that time the parcel might be filled with houses too.

6. Parks Updates

Everett stated that the scavenger hunt has started. Staff handed out a bunch of passports at the street dance, and there are some at BMX. She will bring some over to Allina for them to distribute too. There's at least one sitting at her desk that is already finished. They are open through August 3rd and 4:30. There are a couple of new things for the Grand Prize. Great Clips has donated a hair cut and some kid hair products. And Mississippi Biological has offered to do some butterfly kits. It's cool to get some business interest. Mississippi Biological does things like supplying caterpillars to science classrooms and things, there's an interesting business to have in town. Wimmer added that they're the largest supplier in the Midwest, and had been in St. Paul, and he is a great corporate citizen. Everett stated that last year we received comments that people wanted multiple drawings, so we will compile what we have. Wimmer stated that we'll do three prizes so it will be an escalating third, second, first. Again it's by drawing. All three will be worthwhile, but the top will still be significant. Everett shared that the first 100 are still getting a prize as well.

Everett stated that the first street dance went really well. We had a huge turnout for Hitchville. They were able to pull a lot of strings and get that show together in less than two weeks. Considering that we book all of our bands in January, that was a monumental task for them, so it was great that they were able to work with us to get that done. They also put on an awesome show that people really enjoyed. We have more food

vendors that we typically have, and everyone was still busy all night. Retail Meats was open for most of the event too. It's cool to see some downtown business involvement.

The next Curious Creatures is coming up July 10th and we still need more registrations. If there are other places we can advertise that, Everett is looking for suggestions. She has done Facebook ads and sent it out to the County daycare licenser, and all kinds of things that she can think of.

The community garden is growing very fast. Since the School for All Seasons didn't come back, the summer intern, Bree Erickson, was able to get some things planted. Everett believes that we did watermelon, cantaloupe and some kind of squash. The Grow Your Own program has planted some things and are planning to continue with the program through the season. As more produce starts coming in we'll start collecting for senior dining too.

The pollinator workshop had four adults and two children come. Everett has found that a lot of adults are interested in pollinators and they want to know what the whole deal is. It was a fun day, and Everett thinks everyone came away with something.

Before the next meeting is the July Street Dance. Jonah and the Whales is back on the 14th.

The parade is next Thursday, July 5th and Kids' Day is that Saturday. The rodeo is Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

The farmers' market is also doing really well. Last week and this week, all of our booth spaces have been filled. There are a couple of new vendors joining this week, and more are asking questions each week too.

Everett stated that Soil and Water is also interested in doing some more cedar tree revetments at River Bluff. As long as we get official Council approval to spend that money, we'll do 150 more feet at the park. Garvey asked if they just keep us in mind for it. Everett said that this year they didn't have to start from the beginning with us. They work with a lot of private landowners too, so they visited all of the sites they have applications for and they knew we have a lot of area that can be done. They figured out how much funding they had remaining after their visits. Wimmer stated that it has been an excellent collaboration working with them.

7. Adjournment

Motion by Johnson, second by Witte to adjourn the June 26, 2018 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board. Motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 26th day of June, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,



Katie Everett
Parks, Recreation, and Culture Manager