

**CITY OF ISANTI
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
June 27, 2017
City Council Chambers**

1. Meeting Opening.

A. Call to Order.

Zdon called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Roll Call.

Members Present: Jennifer Garvey, James Witte, and Aaron Zdon

Members Absent: Mayor Wimmer

Staff Present: Katie Everett, Community Events and Parks Coordinator

D. Agenda Modifications.

Zdon asked if there were any agenda modifications. There were none.

Motion by Garvey, second by Wimmer to approve the June 27, 2017 Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Agenda. Motion was unanimously approved.

2. Approval of Minutes from April 25, 2017 Parks, Recreation and Culture Board Meeting.

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

3. Sign Replacement Plan

Everett explained the signs that directly match River Bluff have been ordered, mostly because we needed to make sure that former – Tot Lot had the right name before the scavenger hunt started. That sign has been put up, she hasn't gotten a chance to see if the others are up yet. She explained that the other options are in the packet. The board had talked about doing some smaller ones to distribute around Bluebird Park. The big signs we have are 8'x3'. The 4'x2' option would go on the entrance off of Isanti Parkway where the road is, and the 2'x2' where the trail comes in on the side off of 3rd, and then 1st Ave winds through the park. Right now there's a little sign as you come through there, we'd replace that one with one that matches. Everett stated that she didn't attach one of the little rules signs because people would be passing them and would read them. Garvey asked if there is a sign near the playground that says there's a bathroom available at BMX. Everett explained that the closest one is by the skate park. Zdon stated that one isn't super visible, and no one really knows. Everett stated that the one out there is a rule sign that across the bottom shows "Public Restroom," and we should be able to order another of those. Garvey stated that she doesn't like adding more posts, because she knows the people mowing the grass don't like more posts, so if it's attached to the pavilion. Zdon added that families with babies at the pavilion don't always want to be using the portables, so agreed that would be a good location. Everett explained that she got the invoice for the signs ordered so far and we should have plenty of money to get what we need.

Everett explained that VFW sign has a condensed version of the rules with the ones more pertinent for that site. That is the same size as the one on the backstop at Unity for a frame of reference. The Bike/Walk Trail signs look like people have been throwing things at them and they're all dented. Everett explained that she thinks there are way too many words on the sign, and the group agreed. Zdon stated that someone might read "4. No alcohol," because it's short and move on. Everett explained that is what the sign currently reads. Garvey recommended that the group revisit this sign, she agreed that there are way too many rules and four

is about the max, and no one is going to stop and read all of these. Zdon stated that the font can be bigger then, too. Everett said that maybe we can have some rules listed and then have a little mailbox there will all of the rules listed so we can say they're available. Zdon said that for number one, "No motorized or recreational vehicles on the trail or its right of way," you can just say "No motorized vehicles," which is what you see on every sign – or you could add no ATVs, and that's still shorter. Garvey asked if Everett had looked at any other county or regional trail signage to see any comparisons. Everett said that she hasn't directly relating to this, but she's never seen a sign that looks like this in all the time she's visited parks. Witte stated that some places just use emblems. Garvey stated a lot of them are getting away from the English language and making sure it's just a universal type of thing. Zdon stated that if you're biking, you can pick up 6 emblems quickly as you're going by. Garvey stated she likes the idea of the emblems; Zdon agreed, and stated that even if some are written and then add 4 or 6 big emblems. Garvey stated she would make a motion to come back with a couple of rules and some emblems that would be an option to condense this sign down. Everett stated she can rework it too, and she will check with the City Administration because they may have ideas about which rules have to be on there. Zdon stated that it's not a bad thing to have the full set of rules maybe posted, but also have an abridged set somewhere on the trail, and have these maybe on the website. Everett stated she believed they are currently on the website, but wasn't positive about that. Garvey stated she didn't think most other places would have these even as an option posted somewhere because all they're going to do is get trashed. Everett agreed that it's not effective and she'll rework it and bring it back. In the meantime, if the board had a chance to Google and find some good emblems, they can email them to her. Zdon stated they should be public domain on the alcohol, no littering, no motorized. Everett stated that she has seen the National Parks Service has a download of their standard ones too. The other signs on the last page will replace the sign just as you're crossing the dirt road; as you're coming into the City of Isanti it says welcome and as you're leaving, thanks for visiting. That's what they say now, Everett said she didn't know if we wanted more information or to stick with what's there. Zdon stated that these are nice and big. Everett stated that Cambridge has a nice big map on their beginning end. So we might be able to look into getting their version of that map and maybe get something like that on this end. There was a gentleman that came in probably a couple of months ago now that said he would like to see distance markers on the trail. He happened to be a sign guy and was going to send options for doing this, and she hasn't heard from him. That might be something that the Bike/Walk Trail committee looks at too. Zdon said that would be nice to have. Everett explained that a lot of people go out with spray paint and mark the trail wherever they want for their 5Ks and things, so that might limit that. Everett stated that if they're okay with those, she will order them as well as the Bluebird and VFW Park sign.

4. Benches and Tables

Everett stated that she wanted to confirm that when the group was out on the park tour, they weren't super convinced that new tables were going to a high priority. The Public Works department has repainted a bunch of the blue and black ones too. There may be a couple left to work on, but the ones that were the worst like over at Mattson are all being redone. They're all getting a little bit of a facelift. There is a chance that we might be able to get some donated by the Rotary; they contacted that they may be interested in doing that again. Everett just wanted to make sure we don't want to order anything at this point. Zdon asked if the \$5000 budgeted is use-it-or-lose it or if it will be pushed to next year. Everett explained that we'll probably lose it, but if we don't need to spend it that's good for the Parks budget. Garvey asked if it has to be spent on tables and benches. Everett explained at this point, yes it does. If we do determine that we do not want to do this and there's another project that fits within that budget, it would be a Finance Committee and then ultimately Council decision to reallocate that money. Garvey asked if we would want to have that decision made by November at the latest. Everett said that should happen as soon as possible. Zdon asked if that money could be used to replace the boards at Legacy that are gouged up, or would that be separate repair budget? Everett said she thought we probably could use it for that. Zdon said he thought it would fit within the scope. Everett explained that she did contact that and it was about \$60 per board. Zdon said we might need 20 boards over there, we don't know, some of them are pretty bad. Garvey asked if it could come back next month. Zdon asked if we could get a count of how many boards are out there. Everett explained she had gone out and didn't remember exactly how many were bad, but it was around eight. Zdon

said that was less than he thought. Everett said that each table has three slats on the top and each bench is just one, so there aren't as many as she was thinking either. She said she asked if we could get blank ones to have extras, but the boards in each position are different and it costs more to get them blank. Everett stated that we might still be able to order extra middle ones, extra end ones, etc. Zdon said he thought it might make sense to get some extra sets since these are the same benches we're using at other parks now too. Garvey asked if the Parks department had tried sanding them down; Everett said she thought they may have done that in a couple of shallow spots, but some of them are so deep you'd end up with a big bowl there. Zdon said that by the time we pay for someone to do that work you could probably just pay for a new board, plus the finish gets kind of weird when you do that. Zdon said he'd like to get an estimate on getting some sets so we have plenty to fix what's there and possibly have some extras.

Zdon asked if there are other top priority benches and tables, or if they have them all repaired. Everett stated that some of the blue ones are pretty dented, but they're nicer now and will hold up for a while. Garvey asked if the blue ones are the metal mesh. Everett said they are. The brown ones that are the permanent ones in the parks were repainted, and the blue ones are usually the ones under the pavilions that move around. They don't look brand new, but they look a lot better. Zdon said the board could leave it up to staff's discretion. If there are some that the mesh is torn, then it's a safety hazard. If there are any staff don't think are worth repairing, then maybe next month we know that and then can decide and be done with it.

5. Parks Updates

Everett said that the scavenger hunt kick-off was really fun. We had about 10 people, with adults and kids, that came to volunteer with Access Church, and 20-25 people that came through to do that activities and a handful more that just stopped by to get the passports. We had a decent turnout for not knowing what to expect. Some people brought the newspaper ad with them, so it's good to know how people are hearing about things. We've had 13 or 14 turned back in, and we've been watching people doing it around town. Some people come in to City Hall and just go out and do it all in a day. The prizes are the blue Frisbees, which we've had before, and blue aluminum water bottles. Staff are collecting some things from local businesses. We have requested a gift card from Coborn's and Allina is going to donate a parks visiting kit with sunscreen, bug spray, that kind of thing. And there will be \$100 cash prize. We are requiring that the person be there to win the grand prize, which will be drawn August 12th at the Street Dance.

Boogie Wonderland was awesome. We got no weather to speak of here. It was the coolest Street Dance Everett had ever been too. There were a couple of spritzes as the band was setting up, but otherwise we completely escaped all of the weather that happened everywhere else on Saturday. Our vendors were all saying they had never seen that many people at a Street Dance before. The Lions ran out of beer at 10:45. Boogie Wonderland is easy to work with, and they want to come back.

The Farmers' Market is going well. The vendors are going a little rogue this week, and they're having the market without Everett. She will be off on Friday, and has put one of them in charge and we'll see how they do. They're all pretty happy. It's not as easy to get in and out for them to set up this year, so the logistics are a little trickier. She is not allowing them to complain about that because the customer traffic has increased so much. It's been way busier. Last week was rainy, and Everett thinks it was still busier than an average week last year. We have also worked with Dual Square Mall and EverCat owns a building next to that about access to that grassy area, and they've all been super cooperative about that. The Liquor Store has been very kind too as we're setting up and doing all of that. Zdon stated they're probably getting more business too. Everett said the market tries to send that in and hopes it goes both ways.

The Arts and Science Academy is moving along. The direction they've been given is that once there is substantial progress made on the park, they will be given official approval to go ahead with expanding enrollment and the middle school stuff. Zdon asked if the park is physically being done. Everett stated that it is, and within the last couple of weeks they've filed all of the final plats. Zdon asked if there is a final plan, and if it's online. Everett stated she's not sure if it's online anywhere, but will include a full-size tennis

court, she thinks the soccer field will be little, but it's for small kids. Everett stated she doesn't know the dimensions on that. They'll also be putting in a playground, and the equipment changed a couple of times so she's not sure exactly off hand what they chose. A paved trail loop will also go through there, and eventually we'll connect that around the storm pond. Zdon asked if they're doing the work out gear that was on the original. Everett stated that will be on our section, and at this point that is not a budgeted project but we'd like to do it at some point in the future. Zdon stated that he was at Highland Park over the weekend and the exercise area was packed. Everett explained that the new Community Development Director is very interested in parks too, and he asked when the last time we did a park plan was. Everett told him it was 2011, but it hasn't been followed very closely. She also thinks that sometime in the next couple of years the City is supposed to be updating its comprehensive plan and Parks is supposed to be a part of that. Hopefully we get a guiding document going forward, and that Parks would maybe be included as well as some of the other dream items.

Everett explained that it is budget time so staff is preparing preliminary budgets to be brought forward. She is working on a grant for a dog park, so if we get that, the dog park will happen a lot sooner. It's looking like right now that might happen over the next couple years if we don't, budgeting that in so we have enough to do a good job when we put it up. We're also looking at a way to start including capital replacement for playgrounds to have funds available to replace things that are aging. As far as Everett knows we're still planning to do the tennis court next year as long as that gets approved in the budget process. We know that will just continue to get more expensive the longer we wait.

Celebrate Isanti is the last item. Everett asked the board that if they know of organizations or teams that might want to come to the wellness fair to let her know. Otherwise it's going well, she thinks there are about 40 people signed up for the 5K. There is still time for that, and we'll do another advertising push on that as it gets closer. Zdon asked which day that is; Everett said August 12. Everett stated that it's looking like it will be a good day with lots of free things for people to do. And between then and now is the July Street Dance. Devon Worley Band is coming. She has never done a Street Dance before, but has done a lot of stuff in the area and has a pretty decent following. Rodeo/Jubilee things are coming up fast – next week already, the parade is next Thursday.

6. Adjournment

Motion by Witte, second by Garvey to adjourn the June 27, 2017 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board. Motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 27th day of June, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,



Katie Everett
Community Events and Parks Coordinator