

## **CITY OF ISANTI**

### **PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**June 28, 2022**

**Call to Order:** Zach Gahm called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Members Absent: Dan Hinnemkamp; Members Present: Zach Gahm, Vaughn Ihrke, Madisson Masucci, Mayor Jeff Johnson Staff Present: Jordan Clementson, Parks, Recreation & Events Coordinator and Stephanie Hillesheim, Community Development Director

**Agenda/Modifications:** None.

**2. Oath of Office:** Madisson Masucci completed her Oath of Office.

**3. Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Johnson; second by Masucci to approve meeting Minutes from April 26, 2022. Motion passed 4-0.

**4. Park Visit Summary:** Member Zach Gahm started by discussing his park visits.

Legacy Park: He rated the park a 4. He noted that the deer flies were a nuisance on the trail. There were trees down near the start of the trail. Some branches overhanging in the trail. He requested some additional class 5 needed on the trail in.

Academy Park: He rated the park a 4.5. Equipment in great shape. Mulch needed in playground area. Tennis court starting to show wear in the entrance and around the outside edges.

**5. Inclusive Swing:** A resident emailed Mayor Johnson requesting that more inclusive swings be added to Isanti Parks. That way people who use wheelchairs can participate on the playgrounds. The resident requested Isanti Hills park be one of the parks to receive an inclusive swing. Member Gahm suggested that it be a goal to install inclusive swings in each playground in the park system over time. Motion by Ihrke; second by Masucci to recommend to City Council that it be budgeted in 2023 to install Inclusive swings in Bluebird Park and Isanti Hills Park. Motion passed 4-0.

**6. Department Updates:** Community Development Director, Stephanie Hillesheim, notified the board that the City of Isanti received a grant from the MN DNR for \$300,000 to help with costs of installing the splashpad, bathrooms, fitness equipment, and pollinator gardens in Bluebird Park. Construction slated to start in summer of 2023.

Bluebird Park Amphitheater seating plan was discussed. Mayor Johnson suggested trying to get benches like the one recently installed outside the municipal liquor store.

Hillesheim provided an update on the first street dance of the summer. There was a great turnout of people and there were 11 food vendors on site for the dance. Band that performed was Jonah and the Whales.

Upcoming events: Fireworks on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Splish Splash Summer Bash July 8<sup>th</sup>. Summer Family Event Series, July 26<sup>th</sup>, August 9<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Street Dances in July 16<sup>th</sup>, August 13<sup>th</sup> and September 17<sup>th</sup>. There

was discussion amongst members and staff about what activities are planned on taking place in the new amphitheater in Bluebird Park. Splish Splash Summer Bash has a kids DJ slated to play music in it. All three of the family series events are taking place there. There is a puppet show, kids band, and a comedy show in that series. The street dance on September 17<sup>th</sup> with music by Skitzo Fonik will also be in the amphitheater.

**Open Discussion:** Mayor Johnson asked new member Masucci to tell everyone a little bit about herself. She has a large background in forestry. She has worked for the MN DNR in forestry outreach all over the state of MN. She enjoys walking through the woods and teaching people about trees. Masucci had suggested to city staff that we look at adding in a sensory garden with the pollinator gardens in the 2023 Bluebird Park project. Sensory gardens have all sorts of plants and flowers and the goal is for people to interact in the garden by touch, feel, smell, sound, and taste. Other members shared a bit about themselves to help Massuci get to know everyone.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Mayor Johnson, second by Ihrke to adjourn the June 28, 2022 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board. Motion passed 4-0, meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jordan Clementson

Parks, Recreation & Events Coordinator