

**CITY OF ISANTI
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 28, 2020**

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

Roll Call: Members Present: James Witte, Aaron Zdon, and Brian Thum

Members Absent: Council Member Jimmy Gordon

Staff Present: Jenny Garvey, Parks, Recreation, and Culture Manager

Agenda/Modifications: Mayor Jeff Johnson, 705 Main Street he has received several emails and is asking to add a discussion item regarding Bluebird park and the skate park area and teens that are being inappropriate to other users verbally and before it could potentially get physical. Motion by Thum, second by Witte to approve the agenda with the modification to add the discussion as 5a. for July 28, 2020. Motion passed 3-0.

2. Meeting Minutes: Motion by Witte; second by Thum to approve meeting Minutes from June 23, 2020. Motion passed 3-0.

3. Park Visits Annual Park visits were conducted by each board member; staff collected them and will gather all the information and bring back to the August meeting. Zdon added that unless there was anything that needed immediate attention. Thum brought up an item at Legacy, a larger tree/branch had fallen near the Sunnyside picnic table that he moved aside but staff should address this. Witte added about the community garden, and inquired about organic pesticides that could be used and to let the gardeners know of this. Staff asked if any board member has their forms that are electronic to email those to staff.

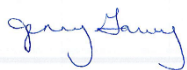
4. Equipment Requests- Garvey mentioned that staff had received a request from a resident about adding an ADA style swing to Rum River Meadows Park. The city does not have anything in the budget for specific items, but an over all replacement budget for park equipment. Staff is recommending that we look at the budget at the end of the year and see where we are and if the budget allows to add a ADA swing to Rum River Meadows, Academy and Mattson Parks. Zdon asked if staff would have time to apply or research if there are any grants that could be available for this type of equipment. Garvey added that she does watch for grant opportunities and if she does come across one for this or anything else related to the park department, she does research it more.

5. Fir Street Update – Garvey reviewed that in 2015 the PRC Board and City Council had given staff direction to acquire two parcels, through a Conditional Use Deed and staff has tried to get a more solid direction from the State and County as the timeframe we have to develop these lots into a park space. Initially it seemed that it was three years, but staff also found information stating we had 15 years. Staff reached out to the county and they are researching this a bit more and will provide staff more information when they can. Staff will then bring this back to the board to review the information. Staff had brought this item to the board in 2018 with ideas on how to develop this park area and nothing was decided at that time, as this park is unfunded, and when the time comes, we will have to budget for this development and amenities. Zdon asked if it's a Conditional Use Deed what does that mean, does that mean that it is our property forever that will be a park? Garvey responded that is how she understands it to mean, that we own the land and we would have the park forever. Witte asked if the board had discussed getting public input for this park. Garvey responded that when the time comes that is something we can do at the time we are further in the process.

5a. Added Discussion Item: Bluebird Park and skatepark. Zdon reviewed that at approximately 3:30 pm each day, children are being bullied by teens that frequent the skate park. Zdon suggested that the police could add it to their rounds. Mayor Johnson asked do we want to tie up our police with this and also added that he had talked to Chief Muyres regarding this item and police have been doing this daily and have been sitting in the lots and when they leave the teens start back up. The teens also use disrespectful language to adults that are speaking to them. The Mayor is asking the board for direction on what we can do. Thum added that this is between the individuals and that this isn't a city issue, the best we could do is to have police patrol, which they currently are doing, as they are not breaking the law. Parents and children need to try to address this on their own. The Mayor added that he said that this is all verbal at this time, but have made physical threats. Zdon added that then this is something they(those involved) can press charges for. Mayor Johnson also added that there was a physical fight between girls and then now its criminal, Police can now proceed with that. Witte added that there is not really anything we as a city can do, Thum and Zdon agreed. Thum suggested that maybe there is signage that could be placed. Witte inquired about trespassing and this could potentially occur with the Police. Mayor Johnson added that Police are continuing to patrol this area. Mayor Johnson is bringing it to the attention of the board before he sends these concerns he has received from the public to staff. The board discussed signage as a possibility and directed staff to research and see what is available as an option.

6. Department Updates: Staff reviewed that we had our July 7 curious creatures program and it was a big hit. BMW stables for brought out miniature horses. They showed the kids how to rope, feed, groom and saddle a horse. A big THANK YOU to them. July 11 was fireworks and they were launched in the grass area just south of the BMX building. Great show was put on and lots of positive comments. Mayor Johnson added that maybe we should do a 15-minute show for future. Zdon liked the 10-minute show and it was captivating to watch, they were a great steady show. July 10 was Kids day with Kids Dance from 11am-1:00pm and 11am-2:30pm the waterslide. This event was very well attended and some waited over an hour to go down that waterslide. Public works crew was a great help at this event. Brother Ferris performed at the July 18 street dance. The attendance was a bit lower than normal; the weather was unpredictable all day with storms in the forecast. The weather held off for the event. Aug 8 is the next dance with Brat Pack Radio, and will follow the Rum River Rods Car show, which is scheduled that day from 10am-3pm. Garvey continued that tennis lessons are finishing up this week, with three weeks of lessons. The youth classes had enough participants, with classes, M/W and T/Th. The medallion hunt started on July 6 and ended on July 6. Chase Imker was the lucky finder, who found it at Unity Park. Thank you to these local businesses who donated items: Best Western Isanti, Falcon National Bank, Fusion Nails, Isanti Tire and Auto Care, Inc, North 65 Chamber of Commerce, North American Title Company and Strike Life Tributes. Witte asked if a fishing event could be added to our programming. Zdon added that in the past the city and the DNR had this type of event at Martins Landing.

Adjournment: Motion by Witte, second by Thum to adjourn the July 28, 2020 meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Board. Motion passed 3-0, meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.



Respectfully Submitted
Jenny Garvey
Parks, Recreation and Culture Manager