

**CITY OF ISANTI  
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
August 23, 2016  
City Council Chambers**

**1. Meeting Opening.**

**A. Call to Order.**

Zdon 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, Mayor Wimmer, James Witte, and Aaron Zdon

**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 August 23, 2016 Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Agenda. Motion was unanimously approved.

**2. Approval of Minutes from July 26, 2016 Parks, Recreation and Culture Board Meeting.**

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

**3. Consider Replacing Unity Park Field Sign in 2016**

Everett explained that she has recently done a park check similar to what the board did last year and found that the Unity signs are pretty rough and have kind of just not been noticed. She pointed out the pictures of the current signs and explained the idea for the new sign. She stated that her biggest question is whether or not we want to put two signs back up or if one is enough. She stated that there is about \$700 left in the sign budget for the year, and there will be more signs to be purchased but we should be able to cover these. Wimmer state that his question is if it is worth get new signs now since we have about two months left of people using the field and having the exposure of a winter season versus putting them out in the spring. Everett asked if in that case we should buy them now and not install them yet, Wimmer asked why we would do that now. Everett stated that it's just because we know that we have the funds this year, and maybe we wait until the end of the year to do so. Garvey stated that she thinks only one sign is needed on the backstop and asked about the rules sign and if it's the same at River Bluff. Everett stated that these signs are being installed at all parks, but the specific rules listed may change based on the park.

Zdon asked if we should make a motion since we all agree the signs need to be replaced, but to look at the budget at the end of the year and install in the spring so they don't sit out and weather.

Garvey made a motion to look at the funds at the end of 2016 to add one sign at Unity Park. Witte seconded. Unanimously approved.

**4. Outdoor Ice Rink Discussion**

Everett explained that she would get the discussion started. In order to find prices that are useful, we need to decide exactly what we want and where it's going to go. The idea is that we get one with wooden

boards so they're easier to replace and we don't have to order something special. That part isn't as big of a deal, but do we want another cement slab, do we want it on grass, all of those kinds of details are important to think about before we can figure out exactly what it's going to cost and then whether or not we can do it.

Zdon stated that he had a lot of notes on this one. He stated that we don't want a slab because we want it to be a seasonal rink with temporary boards – or are these things we have to decide? He mentioned that there are temporary board sets out there, or we just berm snow. This year we would only berm snow because don't have any boards, or budget, or the hockey association to help.

Wimmer stated that it was right that there's no budget or anything even budgeted for labor to do a rink at all. Zdon asked if that included the pleasure rink, and Wimmer stated that no, we would be able to do the pleasure rink. But do to a hockey rink, weather we berm it or whatever, because it takes quite a bit more time to maintain as well. Wimmer stated they had the discussion at goal setting at Council at the beginning of the year, we can look at that, but we'd have to look at the cost and figure out how we'll maintain and clear off. The nice thing about the pleasure rink is that they can just take a truck and drive it across to clear the snow, so it's virtually no time or effort to do that. But if we're relying on a berm to hold in water and stuff, obviously we have to figure that out. When we had talked about it at goal setting with council, they looked at trying put something in the budget for 2017, but there still are not funds in the budget to do anything in 2017, and that's where this discussion would need to go figure out what we would do from a cost standpoint to see how many dollars we would actually need for that. We didn't anticipate it being a permanent rink, so it would be something we take down and use that space for other things. But were Wimmer sees places with wooden rinks in 10 or 12 other places, most of them look like they just leave them there. So then we have to figure out what's the way to do it, that we if we are going to take them out, what's a cost effective way to do it.

Zdon stated that he knows we've been saying wood, but he did some googling and there's polycarbonate, plastics, whatever, that literally click together like legos. Wimmer stated that the reason we like the wood is that if something gets broke or damaged, all we have to do is go to Menards and get a new one. Zdon stated that there are both systems out there and that's the research we need to do. It would need to come down, unless we wanted to dedicate somewhere to it. But we don't want a slab, because obviously that didn't work.

Wimmer stated that it worked fine, but the system they had was 30 years old by the time the city got it. Zdon and Garvey stated that was the boards. Zdon said he was referring to the maintenance and Zamboni. Wimmer stated that's because the hockey association walked away from their agreement. The City never would have done it if it hadn't been for that original agreement, and now we're stuck holding the bag with people who want to have hockey – which is understandable because we've had it and it's an enjoyable thing, but the cost of it is considerably more than what was obviously anticipated when it was first completed. Wimmer doesn't know what the impact of Cambridge's two outdoor refrigerator rinks will be, obviously that's a much better system. You can have hockey longer because you're not dependent upon the weather; that's a lot of the issues we ran into there too, winters are so crazy now we don't know.

Wimmer stated that what was discussed by council was that it would be a seasonal wooden rink, it wouldn't be a permanent thing so we could still use that green space. It doesn't have to be that way.

Zdon stated that the good thing is there's a ton of space there, it's right by the warming house, and it's super level. He doesn't think they'd even need to grade it. Those are good cost saving things. It's just a matter of do we do it, how do we do it.

Wimmer stated that at this point, we don't know what the cost estimates are. Is it a 5000, 20000. Zdon said that's what we need to look at. Wimmer stated that it will have a big impact either way on the budget how it is.

Everet stated that the question she had is that if we take the boards down, do we still put in lighting? The lighting is going to be there, and will potentially be in way – or will impact the way that space is used for parking and stuff. Zdon stated that if it's on the perimeter it could still be used, along the tree line, it depends. It could be smartly done. It would work for the rinks, and it would actually be nice if there was parking or camping out there to have lights for security reasons or whatever. Wimmer asked at what cost? Garvey stated she thought we would really have to look at lighting because in the winter time, it's dark by the time kids get home. That would be the biggest cost that we would have to look at.

Zdon stated there are lights at the pleasure rink, and actually that space is big enough for a hockey rink, but it's not perfectly level. It's level where the pleasure rink is, but then it tapers off. But with some leveling, that could theoretically be the hockey rink, but it's quite far from the warming house.

Wimmer suggested that they give Everett some guideline on what you want her to research for cost because council will need hard numbers to consider.

Zdon said he didn't know if Everett could just research the cost of berming and flooding a hockey rink, just doing snow berms. That's the cheapest/easiest for the first phase, whether it's this winter or next winter. And then looking at modular, wood or plastic board systems that would come down. And obviously a lighting option, four probably. Everett asked if anyone remembered how many lights are out there; Zdon stated there are 3 at the pleasure rink now. There were four on the hockey rink, on the corners. Wimmer stated that what we would want to do is match the candlelight, and that's kind of what we do whenever we work with the power company. The lights along the road in Bluebird Park and the lights on Main Street are the only lights the city owns. All the other lights are rentals, for lack of a better word, from the power company. We pay for the power, and we pay a maintenance, but they're actually owned by them.

Garvey asked if that gives Everett enough guidance. She said she'll find out. Garvey stated they talked about this next year berming it, right? Zdon said let's get a cost on it, because it'll be labor and water, and we can only ballpark it because we don't know what weather is going to be. Always on grass, no slab. Zdon stated no lights this winter, it's not going to happen, it's not in the budget. Wimmer stated there definitely won't be lights. Zdon stated there's a little bit of lighting they would catch from the BMX street lights if they want to play at dusk, but that's really the lighting they'll get if they want to play on it this year, or go on the pleasure rink – and be nice to the little kids. Wimmer stated they can't play hockey on the pleasure rink. Garvey asked if we were still planning to maintain the pleasure rink. Wimmer stated yes, the pleasure rink will always be there.

Garvey asked if those lights were connected to the hockey rink lights. Wimmer stated they're on their own system. Everett stated she didn't know of any at this point that were on timers; Wimmer stated he believed those ones come on when it gets dark, but wasn't sure. Garvey said she was mostly wondering if they were tied in to the hockey rink – and so do they go off at 10? Everett stated she'd have to look at them, it might just be a light sensor. Garvey stated that is something to add to the research – what is the current system on/off is at the pleasure rink.

Garvey said she had an additional question. Will the hockey rink lights still be on and usable. Zdon stated they're on a switch, and that is becoming the skate park, so they'll be the lights for that. Garvey asked if we can still use them. It may be a separate discussion. Wimmer stated they won't be used at all because there's no hockey rink there. Garvey stated that people can still use that area; Wimmer asked for what.

Garvey stated people can use that slab in the fall. Zdon stated it's becoming the skate park in the spring, and Garvey responded that yes, but people can use it before the snow flies. Everett stated that, yes there is electricity to them. Garvey stated that it wasn't ever on last year, so her question is can it be on so that people can use the slab. Wimmer asked what people would be using it for and who would be responsible for turning them on and making sure they are shut off, all those kinds of things. Garvey stated that it came up from a hockey coach, just dry land hockey, basically roller hockey. Wimmer stated he wouldn't anticipate using them because it's an extra cost above and beyond, it's one of those things where the agreement was for the hockey association – Garvey stated it didn't matter if it's the hockey association, it's a citizen who wants to use that area for roller hockey practice. Wimmer stated he wouldn't anticipate us using it because it's another cost above and beyond. We can take a look at it, what the cost would be. Zdon stated there's nothing saying they can't use that space during daylight hours. Everett stated that if someone rents Bluebird Park pavilion, and they use the electricity there is a \$10 fee if they're not residents or it's free if they are residents, would there be something like that we could do? Wimmer said he didn't know, he'd have to look at what the costs are and everything with that.

Witte asked to clarify that we're just talking this upcoming winter just berming and flooding. Zdon stated for sure the pleasure rink, Wimmer agreed. Wimmer stated we'll have to look at cost for a hockey rink. He stated he wanted to stress again that we're passing the preliminary levy the first week of September. There will be no new dollars after the first week of September in the budget. If we're expecting a fair amount of new cost, it has to come out of something that's already budgeted – and he would pretty much guarantee that's not going to happen, especially since we're going into negotiations with our unions as well, that will start January 1, 2017. He can't anticipate there's going to be any new money, that will impact then, there being a hockey rink next year – the 2018 season. Zdon said yes, this is future planning. Wimmer stated he wanted to make sure it was clear how the cycle works. By state law, we have to have that levy set. We can decrease it, but we cannot increase it.

Everett stated that one last concern she has heard is our ability to maintain these is difficult because, especially with the winter we had last year, when it was cold, it snowed. When it snows, the people who maintain our ice are plowing. Getting it done is a challenge. Garvey stated that in any city it is.

Zdon asked Garvey if she knew if Cambridge was on schedule to be done, she stated that yes they are. Zdon stated Cambridge will have rinks to use then. He asked if she knew if there will be an future "Owls" teams. Garvey stated it's still a big question mark.

## **5. Legacy Park Update – Mayor Wimmer**

Wimmer stated the bank has not given its official written okay yet, the banker he's been working with doesn't believe it's going to be an issue. It's almost four months now, his guess is that from the last conversation he had with the banker is that their lawyers are trying to figure out what they need from a liability standpoint, and that's what they're having the biggest heartburn with, and trying to get whatever agreement we need to write up. It's been painfully slow. We have no leverage, it's basically out of the kindness of their hearts that they'd let us do what we want to do out there. The bankers he's talked to thought this would be great. Zdon stated he would guess they also don't want people back there messing around and getting hurt, because they own that road and those lots.

Wimmer stated the thing is that if we put up a barricade for cars, people will even more than they do now want to cut across and what we're looking at is if we can get something through there. And we said we'd do it through a temporary easement standpoint so if something does happen, it would be the city's liability. We would write what we needed, we would do everything. It wouldn't cost them a cent, we just need their approval to do it.

Garvey stated that even putting up a barricade is still not a guarantee that people aren't going to drive around them and things like that. Wimmer stated that if they do, we can pick up them up right away because they're in violation. Garvey stated that it's something, and it keeps honest people honest.

Everett stated that she did get the request from Chief that park board members see something or somebody calls them to tell them they saw something, remind them to call PD right away. They would rather be able to respond and do something about it, because our three day later recollections don't get them anywhere. Wimmer stated that from ATVs and other things in the parks, we've had a really good response times and enforcement. The one car that was out there was confiscated. If we can get it right away, they can get on it.

## **6. Parks Updates – Programming**

Everett stated that summer is wrapping up. Street dances when pretty well, we had challenging weather. The first started an hour late, the second one we ended about half way through, but the third one went the whole time and was great. Considering all of that, our attendance was great, the food vendors were always happy, everybody who attended was happy and spending money at our vendors which was awesome. Everybody that I've talked to loves the street dances and they would love to have them every weekend. They're a great think, that the majority at least would love to see continued. We usually plan those things over the winter as the parks brochure is getting redone. One of the food vendors asked at the end, because she's already planning next summer, about the dates because she wants to be able to come.

Two Cities is coming up. We have gotten about 10 businesses and organizations who have committed to coming to the wellness fair, we still have space for more. The sheriff hopefully will bring horses, which would be cool. We're getting in all of our orders of materials and that kind of stuff. Everett just picked up the medals today. We still have 50 people registered for the run/walk and 12 for the bike. So if you know people who like biking. She would we'll have some day-of stuff for bikes, which is easy because we don't have to enter them into the race software, we don't time the bike ride. But the 5K stuff is way easier for us if we have as many of those ahead of time as possible. But we have 50 free goodie bags for each, so hopefully we can get all of those filled. Newspaper ads should be coming out soon. It's on Facebook, but Facebook is weird now, because if people aren't interacting with you page all the time they don't see your stuff, so unless we pay for those kinds of that kind of stuff, it's hard for people to see our posts. Everett will hopefully will get time this week or next to look into what that costs because we have a budget for the event and that might be a good thing to spend money there. A lot of people have liked the page in the past, but if it's showing up on their pages it doesn't do us much good. Garvey asked if we put a flyer in the folders for schools last year. Everett stated she doesn't know about school folders, but would love to do that. They discussed what the folders were and what goes in them. Everett stated that there are some teachers we work pretty closely with, especially at School For All Seasons. She sent an electronic version to a couple of those teachers, but is happy to print them too. Garvey stated a lot of teachers are doing weekly newsletters electronically. Everett stated that sometimes schools are a little picky about what they allow being advertised to kids so we have to run through some hoops to do that, but she'll look into it. Witte stated that in previous years he has reached out to Cliff energy bars and he did that again, but they didn't want to fulfill the order because it was within 90 days. Everett stated that she'll make a note of that for future reference, and Coborn's is planning to come and they will be giving away granola bars. When we were doing our initial planning we didn't know exactly when they'd be open, so we didn't want to depend on them for big things, but next year we may be able to key them in earlier. Zdon and Garvey stated that Allina will probably be the same next year. Everett stated that the bags come from Allina health, and she worked with someone at the county this year, but would love to work with whoever comes into town.

Everett stated that the prioritized list is very close. The Bluebird climber thing still hasn't come. It sounded like when we first asked them to order it, that person who was supposed to order it quit their job,

and no one did the things they were supposed to do before they left, and we didn't find out until we started asking where it was. It hopefully will be here soon and we'll get it up before winter. There is another shipment of stuff coming tomorrow with chains, and coated ladders, connectors, and all kinds of things. Those will be installed soon.

Everett stated that the volleyball court is up and going.

Everett stated that moving into fall, movie nights will start in October. We also take volunteer groups for that. We've had Heavenly Sunshine and the scouts are pretty regular for that, so we love to have them back, but if there are other groups who want to come, they get the proceeds from the concessions those nights. Zdon asked if the movies are picked already. Everett stated that yes, they are all in the parks brochure. They get picked all at once for the October – April season.

#### **7. Adjournment**

Motion by Garvey, second by Witte to adjourn the August 23, 2016 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board. Motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,



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Katie Everett  
Community Events and Parks Coordinator