

**CITY OF ISANTI
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
August 28, 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, and Mayor Wimmer

Members Absent: James Witte and 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 Wimmer, second by Johnson to approve the agenda for the August 28, 2018 Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes from July 24, 2018 Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Meeting

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

3. Bike and Pedestrian Plan Update (Ryan Kernosky, Community Development Director)

Kernosky explained that the what is included in the packet is the visualization of the future Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. It was taken from comments by this body and members of staff. You'll notice there are lot of extensions of sidewalks and multimodal paths, things of that nature. What I've also done is considered future road planning in the community – future collector streets and major and minor arterials – then ran multimodal paths next to those future streets. The numbers of the maps are associated within the other part of the document with what needs to occur, who is responsible for that, and then kind of a general timeline. A lot of them are going to be as the property develops as the developer's responsibility. That would include sidewalk extensions and some multimodal transportation extensions. There are future options for bridges, and that was something that came up with the submitted documents from this board, that we need to have something that identifies possible future extensions for a pedestrian and bike bridge and/or tunnel to go under 65 to connect the west side to the east side. Kernosky asked the board for questions or feedback. Everett stated that Zdon provided comment ahead of the meeting that Isanti Parkway by Bluebird Park and BMX was a top priority as well as along County Road 5. Kernosky stated that the portion along Isanti Parkway is a future extension of the multimodal path and the City controls all of the frontage, so when the City would decide to do that extension it would be much easier than some other parts. County Road 5 is a challenge because the City has no jurisdiction over that road, but we would look forward to working with the County to ensure bike lanes, sidewalks, or multimodal paths are installed to enhance the safety of that corridor. Wimmer added that the issue with that is that the County has stated repeatedly that they don't have right-of-way in that area as we've tried to work with Safe Routes to School grants. The issue comes in adding to the north side, those homes have very small frontages so they've been less than excited about wanting to have a sidewalk or trail in that area as well. We did try a couple of years ago to have discussion of having a bike lane through there (doesn't do anything for pedestrian traffic), but the County did adopt last year incorporating bike routes on County highways. That may help move that along. Everett asked if we get any sort of notice when the County is planning to do a construction project so we can provide the input that these things are important. Wimmer said that if it's through the City, yes it goes to the Engineering staff. We are not involved in design and things along that line. That's why it was important to get the bike portion in their overall planning so when they look at redoing County highways they're looking at doing that. Their board has changed their direction on that, starting last year.

Everett asked if in the Isanti Hills area where there are no sidewalks if there is enough space to add sidewalks the next time the roads are done. Kernosky stated that those streets do have a 60 foot right-of-way, so it could be just like with Palomino with the addition of a sidewalk and a 4- or 5-foot tree boulevard. It is all 60 or 66 foot right-of-way depending on the street in that neighborhood.

Garvey thanked Kernosky for his work on the document. Kernosky added that he is aiming to present the final document at the September meeting.

4. Community Garden Discussion

Everett stated that board has images of what the garden looks like, and explained that we actually have four raised beds and have removed the table options. The areas on the north side of the garden were left open on purpose when we designed the garden so that we could expand in a way that made sense based on the kind of participation we got with the garden. Both of those spaces have taken a lot of time for maintenance because weeds grow very fast out there. Essentially we have room for 33 more plots if follow the same 10'x10' model on the north section. The maps give an idea if we do one side or the other. A couple of things to consider: we can turn it all into plots and tell the school and the Master Gardeners that they can reserve actual plot spaces instead of having an open space that they have to maintain everything. That may be easier for them to handle, and then we might get more participation out of them as well. This kind of thing then, Public Works can just till and it goes a lot faster, even if next year an entire row were to not be used, the maintenance of doing something like that goes a lot faster. Everett has not heard yet from School For All Seasons if they're considering incorporating that into their curriculum this year, but this year they did not participate and previous couple of years it was really a struggle for them to maintain the big space over the summer. This year, the Master Gardeners have kept up pretty well, but Everett thinks it was more space than they really needed too. She hasn't gotten a report from them yet on how many families were involved with that. Everett said that there would be some cost associated with mulch to make the paths, but nothing too considerable since we have to buy mulch for playgrounds every year anyway. Wimmer asked if we were just about full this year. Everett confirmed that all 60 plots were reserved this year and all 4 raised beds, but we do have 2 more raised beds that we can add if they are reserved. Everett explained she spoke with a gardener at the pot luck whose wife is in a wheelchair, and he said they have a couple of those tables at home. So it may be that most people have space for that size table at home, so that might be why they weren't rented from us. It's good to be able to accommodate people, so maybe there's a different way we can do that to make it more worth someone's while. Everett stated that she doesn't know that we'll get more than 50% more reservations, so if we do all of it at once we may have some empty plots again in 2019.

Wimmer stated that he thinks we should look at doing at least a 10% increase in plots for next year, so that's just adding 6 more plots. Garvey asked if it would make sense to keep going in the straight row format so we as we add more in the future it keeps going that way. Wimmer thought it would, especially sense most people out there with more than one plot have them in the same row. We have a fair amount of people that have more than one plot, so that would make it consistent. Garvey asked if it would be an option if we opened up one of the lines [on the west side], knowing the rest is still future plots, to keep the pollinator plants. She asked if the pollinator plants perennials or annuals. Everett explained that they're most perennial. In that section right now there were some plugs that we planted and many of them now have been eaten by rabbits. Last year and this year, we planted some wildflower seed to cover the area and this year we planted more plants. We do have a row of some Black Eyed Susans, coneflowers, and hyssop that came back really well this year. Potentially some of that will want to come back next year, and we can move the bigger plants if we decide we want to use that space for plots. Garvey said she would like to see the pollinator garden continued if that's a possibility. Everett said that the community gardeners have been really interested in pollinators too, and many of them plant flowers too. At the point that the whole garden is plots, we potentially could plant some of those pollinator plants around the garden sign or somewhere in the area too. It would still be beneficial to the garden. Garvey added that she thought if we provided plots for the school and Master Gardeners, that would be a better option because it is more manageable on their side of it, and then it fits in more with what we're offering at the garden too. Whether it's that we don't sell out the new plots and we let them use those, we can always work at it each year a little differently.

Everett summarized that we are going to leave the educational plot area as-is for next year, but do the farthest left row – does that feel too disconnected from the rest of the garden? Wimmer said we could do the interior line,

since the ones on the outside are the ones that get the most visitors. Garvey agreed that it would make sense to do the row closest to the raised beds and then expand outside.

5. Parks Updates

Everett gave a summary of summer events. She said that she got great feedback about Celebrate Isanti. Lots of families with young kids came out to the Kids' Festival, and they all loved the simulator. It was super cool for the kids to get to try out that equipment. The Union said that it was a good event for them too, and we hope that they want to come back. Wimmer said that in talking with them, it sounds like once we get them a date they'll get it scheduled. Everett said that it sounded like the car show went pretty well; she didn't get final numbers but when she talked to the organizer at the event it sounded like there were at least 150 cars. The street dance went really well. Bad Girlfriends was a good band and they said they had a good time and are interested in coming back. BMX was open that day, and they said they had a good handful of people sign up for activities after the event so it was worth their time to be open. Wimmer said he talked to them and they got a lot of new riders out of it.

Everett explained that Curious Creatures went really well. The only time we've been able to hold those is at Mattson Park because there's a person who does home daycare and she brings her kids over. This time we had a bunch of unrelated people come too, so hopefully we can get them to come back and maybe come to some of the other parks too. The next one is at River Bluff and it is a harvest theme.

Everett stated that the Farmers' Market goes through the end of September so there are 5 weeks left. She is still continuing to get new vendors. At next month's meeting she will give a full report about how the season went, but it's looking like overall it went really well.

Everett added that there was a potluck out at the Community Garden and there were about 8 people there. They were the people that usually come out for things, and they have a lot of good feedback about what's growing out there and how to help each other out. They did mention that the picnic the Cambridge community garden does has some awards for people's plots. That could be something fun to think about doing as well. They have the Master Gardeners go around and decide on the best the plot, most creative, and it sounds like there's one for something like the weediest plot too. That kind of idea is interesting because it might hold people more accountable when they know that people are looking at what they're doing. Everett will look into doing something like that next year. This year it was just really casual and we asked people to bring something to share that was made with something from the garden. The garden is open through mid-October.

Everett gave an update on fall programs as well. Movie Nights start in October, and the volunteer groups we've had in the past have been emailed the sign up form. If the board has ideas of local youth organizations that might want to take over concessions for a night to let her know. Hopefully we get all of the dates filled again. New this fall is family day at Legacy Park on October 6. It will include fun fall things, and a lot of people go out there to take family photos so we'll have options for families to do that too. We haven't done anything like this one before, so we'll see how it goes.

6. Adjournment

Motion by Johnson, second by Wimmer to adjourn the August 28, 2018 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board. Motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 28th day of August, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,



Katie Everett
Parks, Recreation, and Culture Manager