

**CITY OF ISANTI  
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 25, 2018  
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, Jeff Johnson, James Witte, Aaron Zdon, and Mayor Wimmer

**Staff Present:** Katie Everett, Parks, Recreation, and Culture Manager

**Others Present:** Jennifer Hawks, Lisa Johnson

**D. Agenda Modifications.**

Zdon asked if there were any agenda modifications; there were none. Motion by Witte, second by Johnson to approve the agenda for the September 25, 2018 Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Meeting.

**2. Approval of Minutes from August 28, 2018 Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Meeting**

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

**3. Fir Street Parcel Options**

Everett explained that she put together ideas for the parks might look like that the board discussed previously. The cost estimates are meant as a general guideline for how things compare. The board had talked about doing exercise equipment that we could potentially do at the same time as Academy Park. This option includes circuit training equipment, and there are obstacle course types of options. The set of equipment shown was about \$30,000, freight ends up costing almost as much as the equipment, and then installation as well. It is slightly cheaper than playground equipment, but there are still moving pieces. Depending on how many pieces of equipment chosen, there would be a lot of variability on how that might actually turn out. Everett included a couple of options for types of pavilions. The community garden has a mesh fabric for shade instead of a metal or shingled roof. Those are getting to be really popular; they look really nice and provide shade with some protection from rain. There are options to get really fancy with the exercise equipment – you could pave trails between them and that kind of thing.

Everett made a couple of options for a multiuse court because there are a couple of different ways people were doing that. The first one you just make a bigger slab and have separate courts, and in the second one you make a slab big enough for a basketball court and tennis court fits on top of it, then you would stripe them in different colors. In that option, Everett recommends putting a fence around the sport court to keep the balls in the play area. The other park options might not need a fence at all. There is space for a pavilion with those options as well, if we decided we wanted that.

Everett stated that the last option is the casual-use, sort of a gathering space type of park. Included in this option is a bocce court that could be super simple. We could have Public Works make something, there are lots of tutorials out there. You can also get expensive, specific to bocce, surfacing if you want it. The bag toss that is included would be concrete. When Everett was researching she found lots of cool concrete ping pong tables and things. On the ping pong tables, instead of a fabric net, they have a metal piece that is stamped out with shapes. All of those options have very different prices as well.

At the memo, Everett included some other things that could be considered for any of the options. We would probably plant trees at any of the options, but based on the use you might plant different types or more or less trees. There is irrigation at Rum River Meadows, so in some of these options with bigger open spaces, that might be really important to do. If we're going to put a big court on it, there's probably not really a reason to irrigate the grass around it. Park signs are also included as a reminder that there are always other miscellaneous costs that come up. Right now, these are kind of just informative. Everett asked the board for comments.

Witte asked if with Option C (bag toss and bocce ball) patrons would have to provide their own. Everett stated that she saw a couple of options for that; what we could potential do is get a set of bean bags and as soon as they're gone, we don't replace them. There was one example Everett saw that they posted a "bring your own bags" sign, so that could also be an option.

Zdon said that they're all really awesome, and he thinks C could be really cool. Maybe we add another element too, he doesn't know if it would be ping pong or what it is. Everett stated that the board had also talked about having open space for pick up football and things too. Zdon said agreed, and said that if was laid out right we could even stripe something like 10 yard lines for fun. He added that it's feasible that you could put a lock box out there with bags, but then you're dealing with having to give out a code. Garvey agreed that she liked Option C with the green space and the shade structure. Zdon added that he thinks we would definitely want irrigation with the green space. Everett asked if with that type of we would want some type of fence on the boundary. Garvey said she doesn't like the idea of fencing. More of a natural fencing with trees and bushes would be preferred.

Witte said that he is torn between B1 [large court] and C, just because of the request for pickleball. Everett stated that there are lot of places that are striping tennis courts with pickleball lines. If we determine at some point that we need to have pickleball, that could be a way to do that too. Zdon added that we could also convert Whisper Ridge, and that's not that far from there either. We'd have to advertise it as a new pickleball court. Garvey agreed that she would rather see it go there. She added that down the road, since it's in a higher residential area than our current courts, we could get complaints of the balls bouncing at any hour could be an issue too. Witte asked if this park would be lighted. Everett stated that she thinks there's an electrical box out there, so we could potentially get lights. We don't have lights at most of our parks; which also helps the neighbors not have more light, and hopefully keeps people out of the park when it's dark too.

Everett stated that we'll just hold on to these for the file. At the point that we are ready to move forward with something, we can take a look and see if anything new has come up and narrow the prices in as well.

#### **4. Legacy Park Update**

Everett informed the board about planned development around Legacy Park. The map in the memo shows the park boundary which is really all that the City owns, however many residents think that the whole area is part of the park. The City is working with a developer who is looking at starting to develop that open space. Everett stated that she and Public Services Director/Assistant City Administrator Wood have already gotten calls from people curious about what was going on when there were people out doing surveys. Legacy Park is protected and not effected by what is going on. If all of the plans are approved, we will start to see things happen back there soon. Zdon added that it's going to be a great neighborhood, especially along the park side. Everett asked the board members to direct people to City Hall if they have questions. Zdon asked if there is any timeline. Wimmer stated that they are planning to put the road in on Phase 1, and he just called a special meeting because they're now going to put the road in on the eastern edge to connect up to 3<sup>rd</sup> by the soccer fields. That meeting will be October 2<sup>nd</sup>. They're look at Phase 2 being up to the area where our parking lot will be, and doing that in the spring. Garvey asked if there are specific markers designating where that parking lot is. Everett said that we'd have to get it surveyed and there isn't anything up there now. Wimmer stated when the road gets paved up to that point, the parking lot will get paved and it will be a defined lot. Garvey asked if in the interim it would be helpful to have some type of markers to help guide people. Wimmer said that we'll be able to answer that in the spring. If they won't be up that far, then yes, we would want to have a defined route. If they follow their plan, it will be there. Everett stated that it might be worth noting that on the park maps we are currently directing people from the south side of the ponds into the park, but that really is just an access easement and is not meant to be a trail. Zdon asked if this is considered a new development or if it's part of an old one – will there be Park Dedication funds? Wimmer said that there will be as each phase is approved there will be a development agreement. Right now

we're putting together the master development agreement, and then it will be completed in phases. The 21 acres for Legacy Park was part of the original agreement. When that land went into foreclosure, we worked with the bank to get that land to the City. We also worked with the development agreement so there's a mix of R3, higher density, closer to the soccer fields and R1 in the development.

## **5. Parks Updates**

Everett stated that Farmers' Market season is done on Friday. She is making dinner for the last day and will get their feedback about what they thought about the season and what they think for next year. Early comments that she's gotten are that they wonder how to get more of them in, because they want more vendors. Part of that discussion needs to be if there is demand for that. If we invite more people in, is everyone still successful. Growing responsibly is important too. For the most part, things are going really well. Vendor numbers are up since we moved. It seems like we have had pretty consistent customers, and weather is always a factor.

Family Day at Legacy Park is coming up on October 6<sup>th</sup>. The Ambassadors are going to come out that day to help too. There will be a scavenger hunt, a s'mores station, and some areas where families can take pictures as well. It is a drop in event, and open to the public. It's the first time we're doing it, so we're trying to get the word out.

Movies start on October 19<sup>th</sup>. We are still looking for volunteer groups.

Curious Creatures is starting to kick off. In August we had a big turnout at Mattson Park and many of them came back for September at River Bluff. The next one is October 9<sup>th</sup>, and that's the first one that we'll be able, hopefully, to run at Bluebird. That's one of those places where people just happen to be a lot, so more people might see it and catch on. Wimmer added that at the one in September, the parents said that somebody had come and told them to come to the next one. It's good to see people pulling each other in. Everett agreed that word of mouth is kind of our best tool.

Everett stated that the last item are the tentative dates for 2019. The rodeo is a week later next year, so that kind of shifts us back a little bit. These will get confirmed once we get the budget set.

## **6. Adjournment**

Motion by Witte, second by Garvey to adjourn the September 25, 2018 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board. Motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 25<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,



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Katie Everett  
Parks, Recreation, and Culture Manager