

**CITY OF ISANTI  
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
September 28, 2021**

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

**Roll Call:** Members Present: Aaron Zdon, Zachary Gahm, Dan HinnenKamp, Tressa Hunting, and Mayor Jeff Johnson

Staff Present: Matt Sylvester, Public Services Director

**Agenda/Modifications:** None

**3. Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Johnson; second by Gahm to approve meeting Minutes from August 24, 2021. Motion passed 5-0.

**4. Department Updates:** Sylvester shared updates on September events. Curious Creatures was cancelled in September and will likely be cancelled in October due to low attendance. Events are likely conflicting with the preschool schedules.

Final Street Dance was well-attended and included a tribute for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11. There were some unfavorable events that took place during, from garbage to youth fights and graffiti that will be addressed in the future. The Mayor noted that many people stayed until the very end of the event. A conversation about moving the event to the park will need to be had in the future to determine if it will deter some of the poor behavior and if it's the right move for the event. Sylvester shared some insight into some of the vandalism occurring throughout the City, including at the BMX bathrooms at Bluebird Park. Hunting shared a desire to create a more inclusive environment at these events and include some songs that may recognize our Native American and non-American residents. An item to discuss inclusivity and equity at future events will be added to the October Board agenda.

The Farmers Market continued to be slow in September with a number of vendors pulling out or not showing. Ms. Olson is looking into options and new guidelines for vendors if the event location moves to the new liquor store site. Gahm mentioned moving the date to a Sunday instead of a Friday and/or changing the timing. Sylvester mentioned competing markets and noted that vendors at our market also attend nearby markets on other days. HinnenKamp noted Coborn's may have objections to moving the market next to their store. The holiday lights event will be moving to Council for a vote on an option to move forward. The location will be at Bluebird Park at the bandshell. The Mayor suggested the conversation may be geared around whether or not to ticket the event and how much cost the City is willing to take on.

Bandshell construction is ongoing and should be completed in October. Isanti Lions Club are looking to submit a name for the feature along with a monetary contribution. Zdon asked if October 23 is a reasonable date for a grand opening celebration to which Sylvester noted we are hopeful the unit will be completed by then.

December Movie Night was moved due to a scheduling conflict and will now be combined with the Santa event. Gahm mentioned making sure that the schools get flyers with dates for the Movie Nights.

HinnenKamp suggested next year it may be a good kickoff event for the holiday lights event.

Sylvester addressed the closing of the BMX restrooms due to vandalism. Ms. Olson is looking into security options to deter future vandalism. Zdon asked if the bathrooms were available still from the inside for the BMX use and Sylvester confirmed they are still open on that end. Although one of the vandals was caught, there have been 4-6 different incidents this year. Incidents are also occurring throughout Bluebird Park so any potential cameras or security measures would need to capture the broad area.

Sylvester also discussed Family Day at Legacy Park. Roughly 40 people attended throughout the day – and increase from previous years - and families were able to make s'mores, crafts and take photos. The event unexpectedly conflicted with the Vikings home opener, which will be taken into consideration for next year.

The grand opening celebration will tentatively take place on October 23 with food trucks, local school performers and entertainment. The Board noted that the date is over MEA weekend, which may impact schedules, but pushing back to Halloween weekend or into November are also not preferable.

HinnenKamp shared additional research on the Eagle Park railroad viewing options. HinnenKamp is interested in reaching out to BNSF and seeing if they would offer any community support for a project like this, as well as the Isanti Historical Society and Isanti County. Zdon suggested HinnenKamp continue to

gather some research and submit to Ms. Olson a week prior to the October meeting to add to the next agenda. Zdon suggested adding a mural on the side of the buildings bordering the tracks.

**Adjournment:** Motion by HinnenKamp, second by Johnson to adjourn the September 28, 2021 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board. Motion passed 5-0, meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted  
Alyssa Olson  
Parks, Recreation & Events Coordinator