

**CITY OF ISANTI
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 25, 2020**

Call to Order: Aaron Zdon - Chair called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Roll Call: Members Present: James Witte, Aaron Zdon, and Council Member Jimmy Gordon

Members Absent: Brian Thum

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

Motion to approve the agenda motioned by Witte, seconded by Gordon with no modifications. Motion passed 3-0

2. Meeting Minutes: Motion by Witte; second by Gordon to approve meeting Minutes from July 28, 2020. Motion passed 3-0.

3. Park Visits Reports Review: Garvey explained that at the July 28, 2020 PRC Board meeting, all board members handed in their assigned park visits and staff has drafted a compilation of each members parks for review and to further discuss items and invited the PRC Board for their input and for prioritization of projects. Aaron Zdon reviewed Academy and Whisper Ridge. His findings for Academy was an overall rating of 5 and items he noted were to rake at landings of swings and slides. Garvey noted that this is battle at most of our playgrounds and that some of them have rubber mats at the slide to assist with this item. Zdon also noted another item is possible better ADA access from the road. Staff noted that they will look at this into more detail as this was not done with the original project as the park area was first developed for the school and that has ADA access via the sidewalk into the park area. Zdon noted for Whisper Ridge an overall rating of 2 and items noted were surface cracks on court, ridges and cracks from roots along trails leading into park area he also wants to ensure we discuss the future of the park in more detail in the near future on the cost to repair vs. cost to remove and replace with green space. Witte asked about a rubberized option for courts and the cost and longevity. Zdon stated we hasn't sure what that would be, Garvey also noted she was not aware of what that cost or option would entail. For tennis court repair the subsurface is what would also need to be replaced to ensure a better surface area. Garvey noted that the Whisper Ridge has a CIP plan and wasn't sure what the timeframe or items were on this park. Brian Thum had reviewed Legacy, Mattson and VFW parks. Thum noted for Legacy an overall rating of a 5 and noted these items of encroaching vegetation by FV overlook bench and stairs. Tree limb by Sunnyside landing had fallen and he requests to move the large park sign closer to the parking lot. Garvey noted that these items will be addressed by public works and are in the short-term plan and the sign was actually in the process of getting moved into the new location now that the parking lot is nearly finished. Garvey also noted that we had a map sign and that has also been returned to the park entrance along the trailhead. Thum also visited Mattson and gave an overall rating of a 3 and had nothing to note for this park. The board wondered the rating of a 3 as they all felt the park was in pretty good shape. For VFW park Thum gave an overall rating of a 4 and had nothing to note for this park. James Witte reviewed River Bluff Preserve, Rum River Meadows, and Isanti Hills Neighborhood (IHN) parks. Witte's findings for River Bluff Preserve were an overall rating of a 4 and items noted were the trails need a good cleaning, as habitat starts to move in on trails in between the steps and s curve. Steps could use the blower for debris. Witte inquired what rock base they use on the steps and to note that this shouldn't be removed when cleaning up the stairs. Branch on south zig/zag trail to look at for possible falling hazard. He noted for Rum River Meadows an overall rating of a 4 and items noted are wood chips kicked out by bench swing. Witte recommend a concrete border around playground. Garvey added that this project was actually completed two weeks ago and was our last playground area to have this completed, which we had on our project list to do. Witte also noted weed control in wood chips. Witte noted for IHN an overall rating of a 3, and items noted were outdated park, damage to end slide piece. Various carving and scratches on equipment due to vandalism, the mulch looked aged and the pavilion showed no signs of damage. Garvey noted that this park is an example of what staff has mentioned at previous meetings regarding outdated playground equipment and that we can no longer get replacement parts

for this playground. Witte added a comment about the volleyball net at Rum River Meadows has a hole and this court does not seem to get used. Garvey added that a volleyball court too often is not on a grass surface and that when Bluebird park was developed this park had that as an option and wasn't installed, and then when the additional lots were secured for RRM it was decided that one could be added to this park area to have one within our park system. Jimmy Gordon reviewed Bluebird, Riverside and Unity parks. Gordon findings for Bluebird were an overall rating of a 5 and items noted were swing chair could use some oil/grease, repaint hopscotch, missing garbage can by pavilion, and a merry-go-round addition was suggested. Garvey noted that many swings in the system squeak and have added this to the maintenance list, and continued that the city has stencils for the other items but not the hopscotch one and will look at end of year budget to see if we can purchase one to have. Gordon reviewed Riverside with an overall rating of a 4 and items noted were black residue on sides of stairs and platform and weeds in tot area in wood chips. Gordon noted for Unity an overall rating of a 4 and items noted were bleachers should be painted and/or boards replaced. Garvey indicated that the bleachers are in the 2021 CIP and will get replaced next year. Garvey then reviewed these items for prioritization:

Short-Term and Immediate Maintenance Projects:

- Academy: Rake mulch
- Bluebird: swing grease/oil, garbage can replacement(ongoing)
- Isanti Hills Neighborhood: mulch
- Legacy: sign to be moved when parking lot is complete and additional map sign to be brought back (completed August)
- Riverside: weeds removed from tot area and residue removal.
- Rum River Bluff Preserve: cut vegetation along trails, debris removal from steps
- Rum River Meadows: concrete edging project completed Aug 10; weeds removed from mulch.

Long-Term Projects:

- Ramp access at Academy from road
- Unity: Bleachers – 2021 CIP
- Discuss future of Whisper Ridge – resurface courts? Larger park overhaul?
- Bluebird Hopscotch – new stencil needed, end of year budget item to review

4. Tree Plan Review- Garvey reviewed the city does not have a tree plan in place, but staff is in the process of researching this in more detail and will bring back to a future meeting. The city has 11 parks and several of these parks are newer and have less trees than other more established parks. The parks that staff recommends to look at in more detail are: Academy, Bluebird, Riverside and Rum River Meadows. This fall PW will be creating the sledding hill in the northwest corner of Bluebird park on the existing hillside. With the addition to the hillside, trees need to be removed on the top of the hill and moved to a new location. Tree moving cost is estimated at \$600 for the three trees. Staff is requesting recommendations for tree movement within Bluebird of the three trees that need to be moved for the sledding hill. Garvey reviewed the options within Bluebird to move the trees to bench areas to provide shade and provided pictures for the board to review. Zdon added that when Bluebird was first planned there was a tree plan put in place and it stopped with the crash in the market and to review this plan and the budget implications. Zdon added that they be moved to the play area and the bench areas. Witte asked about Rum River Meadows and that this has a couple of trees within the park area but on the north side of the park and inquired if that moving one to RRM be an option. Zdon asked the budgeting and plan for future years, Garvey noted that she has not started that process and that this was the start and we needed to just move these three trees at this time. It was noted that the bench in RRM on the west end would be the most beneficial to have a tree placed to provide shade. The board reviewed the Bluebird park option to move the tree to the north bench and the west bench. Staff added that the west bench may not have enough space to plant a new tree, so asked if that was not an option what the next option they would like to see a tree be placed. Zdon suggested to shade the biffys on the north end. Gordon asked if bringing another tree to RRM would be an option. Zdon asked if it was still well used and indicated to add the other tree to provide a shade tree for the picnic tables. Direction was to have two trees at RRM, if the tree on the west side of BB playground would not be a viable option.

5. Department Updates – Garvey reviewed she does not have any updates at this time on the Fir Street item. Garvey created a new promotional event flyer that she gave to the board. Curious Creatures was held on August 11 with the Ice Creme theme with 10 kids at Mattson Park. Street Dance was held August 8th with Brat Pack Radio with 10 vendors and an additional alcohol vendor that was approved by city council. Attendance was a bit more than July's and this dance followed the Rum River Rods Car Show that was during the day. The dog park is being well used and new amenities have been added from our donation from the Rotary Club of Cambridge & Isanti. Staff is making a plaque to be place within the park. Bluebird park has had some vandalism in the past few weeks. A tunnel piece on the playground was damaged and a replacement part has been ordered and hope to have by end of September. The bathrooms on the south end of the BMX building have been vandalized twice in the last couple of weeks and they have been temporarily closed as we fix the hand dryer. The skate park had a few boards replaced that were damaged. The movie schedule has been created and movies picked the schedule will be Nov 6 – The Mighty Ducks 2; Dec 11 – The Polar Express; which we will include a Santa visit this night before the movie, which council approved at their Aug 5 meeting; Jan 22 – Frozen II; Feb 19 – Cars; and Mar 26- The Sandlot which I was not able to show this past March so bringing it back. The Isanti Family Farmers Market continues through Sept 25, Friday's from 2-6pm. The other upcoming events and projects are: the sledding hill project starting Sept 8; Family Day at Legacy Park – Sunday Sept 27 from 3-5pm to include, hiking, smores, and family photos and prize drawings from C-I Hockey Assc, CMK Financial Services, Connexus Energy, Coborn's Marketplace, Isanti Physical Therapy, Rockstad and Co. Relics & Wares); new event of a Candy Cane Flashlight Hunt – Sunday Dec 13 from 5-6:30pm at Legacy Park and the monthly Curious Creatures 9-10am Sept 15 – Back to School at Isanti Hills Neighborhood Park; Oct 6 - Police/Fire, Nov 10 – Gobble, Gobble and Dec 8 – Santa Fun all at Isanti Community Center. Garvey added that she creates Facebook events for the department on the city page. Legacy park parking lot is nearly completed. The community garden's sunflower maze is in full bloom and the maze is available for the gardeners to walk through.

Adjournment: Motion by Witte, second by Gordon to adjourn the August 25, 2020 meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Board. Motion passed 3-0, meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.



Respectfully Submitted
Jenny Garvey
Parks, Recreation and Culture Manager