



PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE BOARD AGENDA
Council Chambers
Tuesday, August 25, 2020
6:00p.m.

1. Meeting Opening
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Pledge of Allegiance
 - C. Roll Call
 - D. Agenda Modifications
2. Approval of Minutes from July 28, 2020 Parks, Recreation and Culture Board Meeting.
3. Park Visit Reports Review
4. Tree Plan Review
5. Department Updates
6. Adjournment

**CITY OF ISANTI
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 28, 2020**

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

Roll Call: Members Present: James Witte, Aaron Zdon, and Brian Thum
Members Absent: Council Member Jimmy Gordon
Staff Present: Jenny Garvey, Parks, Recreation, and Culture Manager

Agenda/Modifications: Mayor Jeff Johnson, 705 Main Street he has received several emails and is asking to add a discussion item regarding Bluebird park and the skate park area and teens that are being inappropriate to other users verbally and before it could potentially get physical. Motion by Thum, second by Witte to approve the agenda with the modification to add the discussion as 5a. for July 28, 2020. Motion passed 3-0.

2. Meeting Minutes: Motion by Witte; second by Thum to approve meeting Minutes from June 23, 2020. Motion passed 3-0.

3. Park Visits Annual Park visits were conducted by each board member; staff collected them and will gather all the information and bring back to the August meeting. Zdon added that unless there was anything that needed immediate attention. Thum brought up an item at Legacy, a larger tree/branch had fallen near the Sunnyside picnic table that he moved aside but staff should address this. Witte added about the community garden, and inquired about organic pesticides that could be used and to let the gardeners know of this. Staff asked if any board member has their forms that are electronic to email those to staff.

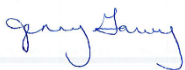
4. Equipment Requests- Garvey mentioned that staff had received a request from a resident about adding an ADA style swing to Rum River Meadows Park. The city does not have anything in the budget for specific items, but an over all replacement budget for park equipment. Staff is recommending that we look at the budget at the end of the year and see where we are and if the budget allows to add a ADA swing to Rum River Meadows, Academy and Mattson Parks. Zdon asked if staff would have time to apply or research if there are any grants that could be available for this type of equipment. Garvey added that she does watch for grant opportunities and if she does come across one for this or anything else related to the park department, she does research it more.

5. Fir Street Update – Garvey reviewed that in 2015 the PRC Board and City Council had given staff direction to acquire two parcels, through a Conditional Use Deed and staff has tried to get a more solid direction from the State and County as the timeframe we have to develop these lots into a park space. Initially it seemed that is was three years, but staff also found information stating we had 15 years. Staff reached out to the county and they are researching this a bit more and will provide staff more information when they can. Staff will then bring this back to the board to review the information. Staff had brought this item to the board in 2018 with ideas on how to develop this park area and nothing was decided at that time, as this park in unfunded, and when the time comes, we will have to budget for this development and amenities. Zdon asked if it's a Conditional Use Deed what does that mean, does that mean that it is our property forever that will be a park? Garvey responded that is how she understands it to mean, that we own the land and we would have the park forever. Witte asked if the board had discussed getting public input for this park. Garvey responded that when the time comes that is something we can do at the time we are further in the process.

5a. Added Discussion Item: Bluebird Park and skatepark. Zdon reviewed that at approximately 3:30 pm each day, children are being bullied by teens that frequent the skate park. Zdon suggested that the police could add it to their rounds. Mayor Johnson asked do we want to tie up our police with this and also added that he had talked to Chief Muyres regarding this item and police have been doing this daily and have been sitting in the lots and when they leave the teens start back up. The teens also use disrespectful language to adults that are speaking to them. The Mayor is asking the board for direction on what we can do. Thum added that this is between the individuals and that this isn't a city issue, the best we could do is to have police patrol, which they currently are doing, as they are not breaking the law. Parents and children need to try to address this on their own. The Mayor added that he said that this is all verbal at this time, but have made physical threats. Zdon added that then this is something they(those involved) can press charges for. Mayor Johnson also added that there was a physical fight between girls and then now its criminal, Police can now proceed with that. Witte added that there is not really anything we as a city can do, Thum and Zdon agreed. Thum suggested that maybe there is signage that could be placed. Witte inquired about trespassing and this could potentially occur with the Police. Mayor Johnson added that Police are continuing to patrol this area. Mayor Johnson is bringing it to the attention of the board before he sends these concerns he has received from the public to staff. The board discussed signage as a possibility and directed staff to research and see what is available as an option.

6. Department Updates; Staff reviewed that we had our July 7 curious creatures program and it was a big hit. BMW stables for brought out miniature horses. They showed the kids how to rope, feed, groom and saddle a horse. A big THANK YOU to them. July 11 was fireworks and they were launched in the grass area just south of the BMX building. Great show was put on and lots of positive comments. Mayor Johnson added that maybe we should do a 15-minute show for future. Zdon liked the 10-minute show and it was captivating to watch, they were a great steady show. July 10 was Kids day with Kids Dance from 11am-1:00pm and 11am-2:30pm the waterslide. This event was very well attended and some waited over an hour to go down that waterslide. Public works crew was a great help at this event. Brother Ferris performed at the July 18 street dance. The attendance was a bit lower than normal; the weather was unpredictable all day with storms in the forecast. The weather held off for the event. Aug 8 is the next dance with Brat Pack Radio, and will follow the Rum River Rods Car show, which is scheduled that day from 10am-3pm. Garvey continued that tennis lessons are finishing up this week, with three weeks of lessons. The youth classes had enough participants, with classes, M/W and T/Th. The medallion hunt started on July 6 and ended on July 6. Chase Imker was the lucky finder, who found it at Unity Park. Thank you to these local businesses who donated items: Best Western Isanti, Falcon National Bank, Fusion Nails, Isanti Tire and Auto Care, Inc, North 65 Chamber of Commerce, North American Title Company and Strike Life Tributes. Witte asked if a fishing event could be added to our programming. Zdon added that in the past the city and the DNR had this type of event at Martins Landing.

Adjournment: Motion by Witte, second by Thum to adjourn the July 28, 2020 meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Board. Motion passed 3-0, meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.



Respectfully Submitted
Jenny Garvey
Parks, Recreation and Culture Manager



MEMO

To: Chair Zdon and Members of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Board
From: Jenny Garvey, Parks, Recreation & Culture Manager
Date: August 25, 2020
Subject: Park Visit Summary

Background

At the July 28, 2020 Parks, Recreation and Culture Board meeting, all board members handed in their assigned park visits. Staff has drafted a compilation of each members parks for review and to further discuss items and invites the PRC Board for their input and for prioritization of projects.

Aaron Zdon: Academy and Whisper Ridge

Academy: Overall Rating: 5

Items noted: Rake at landings and possible better ADA access from road.

Whisper Ridge: Overall Rating: 2

Items noted: Surface cracks on court, ridges and cracks from roots along trails leading into park area, discuss the cost to repair vs. cost to remove and replace with green space.

Brian Thum: Legacy, Mattson and VFW

Legacy: Overall Rating: 5

Items noted: Encroaching vegetation by FV overlook bench and stairs. Tree limb by Sunnyside landing. Request to move the large park sign closer to the parking lot.

Mattson: Overall Rating: 3

Items noted: None

VFW: Overall Rating: 4

Items noted: None

James Witte: River Bluff Preserve, Rum River Meadows, Isanti Hills Neighborhood (IHN)

River Bluff Preserve: Overall Rating: 4

Items Noted: Trails need a good cleaning, as habitat starts to move in on trails. Steps could use the blower for debris. Branch on south zig/zag trail to look at for possible falling hazard.

Rum Rive Meadows: Overall Rating: 4

Items noted: Wood chips kicked out by bench swing. Recommend concrete border. Weed control in wood chips.

IHN: Overall Rating: 3

Items noted: Outdated park, damage to end slide piece. Various carving and scratches on equipment due to vandalism. Mulch looked aged. Pavilion no signs of damage.

Jimmy Gordon: Bluebird, Riverside, Unity

Bluebird: Overall Rating: 5

Items Noted: Swing chair could use some oil/grease, repaint hopscotch, missing garbage can by pavilion, merry-go-round addition was suggested

Riverside: Overall Rating: 4

Items noted: Black residue on sides of stairs and platform, weeds in tot area in wood chips

Unity: Overall Rating: 4

Items noted: Bleachers should be painted and/or boards replaced.

Staff noted 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
- 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



MEMO

To: Chair Zdon and Members of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Board
From: Jenny Garvey - Parks, Recreation and Culture Manager
Date: August 25, 2020
Subject: Tree Plan - Review

Background:

Staff is bringing this item to the PRC board to review. The city does not have a tree plan in place, but are in the process of researching this. 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.

Pictures of Bluebird park:



Request:

Recommendations for tree movement within Bluebird of the three trees that need to be moved for the sledding hill. Recommendations for new trees within parks.





MEMO

To: Chair Zdon and Members of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Board
From: Jenny Garvey - Parks, Recreation and Culture Manager
Date: August 25, 2020
Subject: Department Updates

Staff has does not have any updates at this time on the Fir Street item.

Curious Creatures was held on August 11 with the Ice Creme theme. We had 10 kids at Mattson Park.

Street Dance was held August 8th with Brat Pack Radio. We had 10 vendors with 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. The bathroom on the south end of the BMX building have been vandalized twice.

The movie schedule has been created and movies picked.

- Nov 6 – The Mighty Ducks 2
- Dec 11 – The Polar Express; 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
- Mar 26- The Sandlot

Isanti Family Farmers Market goes through Sept 25, Friday's 2-6pm.

Upcoming events:

- 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, Physical Therapy-Isanti, Rockstad and Co. Relics & Wares).
- Candy Cane Flashlight Hunt – Sunday Dec 13 from 5-6:30pm at Legacy Park
- Curious Creatures 9-10am each date
 - Sept 15 – Back to School at Isanti Hills Neighborhood Park
 - Oct 6 - Police/Fire at Isanti Community Center
 - Nov 10 – Gobble, Gobble at Isanti Community Center
 - Dec 8 – Santa Fun at Isanti Community Center