



**PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE BOARD AGENDA**  
**Council Chambers**  
**Tuesday, June 23, 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 February 25, 2020 Parks, Recreation and Culture Board Meeting.
3. Park Visits
4. Department Updates
5. Adjournment

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

**Call to Order:** Jenny Garvey – PRC Manager called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

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

**Agenda/Modifications:** None added, motion by Witte, second by Thum to approve the agenda for February 25, 2020. Motion passed 4-0.

**2. Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Witte; second by Thum to approve meeting Minutes from January 28, 2020. Motion passed 4-0.

**3. Discussion Items presented by PRC Board Member Thum:** Thum brought to the board an idea of adding a walkway to connect the main Isanti Indoor Arena parking lot to the northeast parking lot in Bluebird Park. Thum is a frequent visitor to this facility. Thum added that this facility is getting more use and the extended parking areas are being utilized. One in particular is the parking lot that is in the northeast section of the park, just north of the skate park. The grass area between main parking lot, which runs along the tree line gets flooded or is very saturated with water throughout the year as it's a low lying area. Thum suggested a walkway be added to this area. Thum added that people have to walk along the street, which has no sidewalk to access the facility to avoid the grass area. There is a path that runs to the facility, but is south of the skate park and have to walk that distance to access the path. Zdon asked what the process was and if BMX was willing to help fund this project. Zdon also added that when the parking lot re-structure occurred a few years ago this idea was briefly discussed and he also agreed that this is an area that is difficult to walk through. Zdon and Thum were not sure if BMX would be in agreement with this addition. Zdon also added that this is a non-budgeted item this would need to be reviewed. Garvey added that this project would have to also meet ADA standards. The board discussed options and that maybe the city engineer could review this area. Witte clarified the area of question. Zdon continued that he would also like to see adding a pathway to the existing skate park and the parking lot. Zdon also commented that parking spaces would be lost with the addition of a walkway. Thum added that he has not talked or discussed this with the BMX board. Garvey added that City Engineer Jason Cook was in the audience, in which Cook reviewed that a culvert could be added and that the parking spots could be crossed off and labeled no parking, and a quick estimate was about \$2,500. Cook also added there is a catch basin in this area and could maybe capture some of the water. Zdon added that he would prefer to have a walkway vs a catch basin. Thum agreed that he would also like to see the walkway option. Zdon added that in a prior PRC meeting the board had discussed the path in the south area that jogs out by the pleasure rink and straightening it out. Witte added that he also recalled this discussion. Motion by Witte, second by Thum, to look at the trails in the section in Bluebird Park by the skate park, the arena and the parking lots.

Thum also brought to the board to discuss the item of canopies to be set up along the tree line grass area and the parking lot. Zdon added that this was not a city/PRC rule, he recalled that this is a BMX item they had decided to put in place. Garvey continued that this is correct and that she reached out to BMX contacts and this was put in place by BMX, as cars were scratched by bikes. Garvey added that the restriction as a city for canopies is that they cannot be staked into the ground where the sprinkler system is in place.

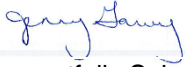
The third item Thum brought to discuss was the idea of insect control around the staging area for racers in the IIA which is on the east side of the building and the rain garden is on this side of the building. Garvey commented that the rain garden is a pollinator area and mosquito control in the rain garden would not be possible. Thum added if there are any plants at that are a natural mosquito control. Garvey continued that she does not have that background knowledge but can look into this item further.

**4. Department Updates:**

Garvey reviewed that staff will move forward with the an egg hunt for 2021, a parade float option for 2020 and fireworks for 2020 after the parade in July. Garvey continued that a sledding hill will be added in 2020 to Bluebird Park and Public works will start this project in the fall timeframe. The spring newsletter will have a Parks calendar insert, so be on the watch for this when it is mailed out. It includes the events and a calendar

for 2020. The street dances are June 20, with The Farmer's Daughters, July 18 will be Brother Ferris and August 8 with The Brat Pack.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Witte, second by Thum to adjourn the February 25, 2020 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board. Motion passed 4-0, meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.



Respectfully Submitted  
Jenny Garvey  
Parks, Recreation, and Culture Manager

DRAFT



## MEMO

**To:** Members of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Board  
**From:** Jenny Garvey -Parks, Recreation, and Culture Manager  
**Date:** June 23, 2020  
**Subject:** 2020 Park Visits

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### **Background**

In 2018, the PRC Board determined that instead of doing a whole group tour during a meeting that it would be more effective for members to each visit a couple of parks ahead of the meeting to provide more thorough inspections. The review took place at the April meeting.

2019 Park Assignments were:

Aaron Zdon – Academy Park and Whisper Ridge

James Witte – Rum River Meadows, River Bluff Preserve and Isanti Hills Neighborhood Park

Jenny Garvey – Bluebird Park, Unity Park, and Riverside Park

Jeff Johnson – Mattson Park, Legacy Park and VFW Park

The PRC Board will need to determine if these visits will happen again in 2020, and if so, we will need to update the park assignments. The 2019 checklist for the visits is attached.

### **Attachments:**

- Park Ambassador Checklist

# Park Ambassador Checklist

**Park Name :** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Visit:** \_\_\_\_\_

Below are some items to look for while you visit each park. Remember, City staff also inspect the parks regularly for maintenance issues, so on these visits think “big picture” – how is the park doing overall, are there changes that should be made? Skip any sections below that do not apply.

## Playground Equipment

### **Overall appearance of playground:**

1	2	3	4	5
Very Poor				New or Like New

### **Safety or maintenance concerns**

List any damaged or missing pieces of equipment:

## Grounds

### **Playground mulch:**

Does there appear to be adequate mulch around the playground equipment?

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

### **Trails:**

Pavement conditions:

1	2	3	4	5
Very Poor				New or Like New

Are there any trail obstructions? (Tree limbs, encroaching vegetation, pot holes, etc.)

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

If yes, explain:





## MEMO

**To:** Members of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Board  
**From:** Jenny Garvey - Parks, Recreation and Culture Manager  
**Date:** June 23, 2020  
**Subject:** Department Updates

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Staff cancelled the March Curious Creatures program and movie night, due to COVID-19 health issue that is occurring around the country and state. June 9 – Water Mania was able to occur, with 3 families, due to the limit of 10 in a group. July 7 – Cowboys and Cowgirls is the theme.

Fireworks: These were moved from Thursday July 9 to Saturday July 11 due to the cancellation of the Rodeo and Jubilee Days and council wanted to move it to the weekend this year.

Path/Walkway in Bluebird: COW discussed this at the March 17, 2020 meeting and has decided to not pursue this, as the park layout and amenities within the park could change.

Staff is continuing to plan for the Pop bottle rocket class and free tennis lessons that will be in July.

Council first postponed the June street dance until September, but decided to add a new band to the June 20 date, Bad Jack. Street Dance Bands are Sept 12: The Farmer's Daughters, July 18: Brother Ferris and August 8: Brat Pack Radio.

The Famer's market is open. We are open Friday's from 2-6pm from May 29 – Sept 25, with no market on July 3. We have 18 vendors. Each week brings a different variety to choose from. The layout is a bit different this year with having to provide social distancing within the market.

The community garden opened on Thursday May 7. All plots have been reserved. The kids garden area is being assisted by 2 kiddos. Encompassing the kids garden area is the pollinator area, and this year we are going to try to plant sunflowers amongst the perennials that are there. The northeast corner remains open for future plots.

The council has been discussing the upcoming budget and CIP. Within the CIP are items related to the future of parks. In particular, Whisper Ridge, VFW and Isanti Hills Neighborhood Park. These parks have been discussed in the past, almost annually, when we review the park tour items. As of now, the Council has not funded any future replacements for these parks. This is being presented for information for the Park Board to be aware of and to review at future meetings the ideas that the Park Board would have for new items.