

**CITY OF ISANTI  
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 24, 2019  
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:** James Witte, Aaron Zdon, and Brian Thum

**Members Absent:** Mayor Jeff Johnson

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

**D. Agenda Modifications**

Zdon asked if there were any agenda modifications, Zdon asked to add to Parks Update about the skate park. Motion by Witte, second by Thum to approve the agenda for the September 24, 2019 PRC board meeting.

**2. Approval of Minutes from July 23, 2019, Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Meeting**

Motion by Witte and second by Thum; all in favor. Minutes were unanimously approved.

**3. Receive the Parks, Trails and Open Space plan**

Garvey reviewed that the Comp Plan was previously handed out to the board and they were to review and bring back comments/suggestions. Garvey will review and compile the results of all the board members comments and bring back these at a later time. Zdon had emailed his prior to the meeting to Garvey and the others will be able to email their completed lists by Monday Sept 30.

**4. Snow Sledding Hill**

Garvey reviewed that back in 2018, the park board was provided a brief idea of having a sledding hill within the city, which was a part of the 2018 annual council goals. The idea was presented to the PRC board but did not have much discussion and nothing further was discussed. Staff is bringing back this item to discuss further and provide staff with some direction. Staff has reached out to our insurance carrier but has not heard back from them. Some others items that the board should consider are: staff time to maintain, amount of snow fall, lighting, Bluebird park has one natural hill, however it is not a high grade, obstacles for sledders: trees, bushes, fencing, drainage, etc, parking, walking distance and restrooms. Another option would be to purchase a snow making machine, to assist with snow and to allow for a steeper grade of hill, staff did a

brief search and found units for about \$3,000. Again, more items to consider are staff time to make snow, make hill, maintain hill, maintain machine, weather conditions, etc. Garvey also mentioned that at Bluebird the design of the park has an amphitheater and that council will be looking at this more in 2020. Zdon mentioned that this was bid out and had plans back in about 2008 and that it fell through as the economy turned. Zdon stated that Bluebird hill would be a good option, and its not a steep hill. Witte mentioned that he has seen kids sledding on south passage by a drainage area for younger kids. Zdon also mentioned a pile of dirt that he has seen at Andover and Coon Rapids. Zdon and Witte mentioned the soccer field hill and that the top of the hill has a fence so it doesn't provide much of an area at the top and that maybe a snow machine could be added to this area to provide the steepness and the top area that is needed but not sure if we have the water supply. Garvey mentioned that water supply could come from the hydrants as we do for making the outdoor rink. Zdon then mentioned that we could try Bluebird with a sign that its for sledding. Witte mentioned the idea of River Bluff Preserve and knocking down trees, however this would have to be quite a few and was then decided that was not a good option as safety would be a big factor with trees. Zdon mentioned that the board is exploring it and for simplicity, that Bluebird is the option to proceed with, get a sign made and for cost. Zdon mentioned the snow-making machine would also be able to provide more snow and that we can look into this more as the budget process comes about.

##### 5. Dog Park Amenities

Garvey reported the dog park opened up this past May and staff was asked to explore ideas to add more amenities and a bench. The park has been well received and is getting used a lot, staff has increased pick up from Monday and Fridays, to Mon, Wed, Fri. Garvey continued that the Rotary Club of Cambridge & Isanti, donated money to the city to be used for the dog park. A new bench has arrived and Public works will install it this fall as we see where the best option to place it will be as it will be in concrete. The Rotary club stated that the remaining dollars can be used for amenities to be placed within the dog park. Garvey presented a few ideas and concepts/pictures she found to review. Public works can make some of these items as they are made out of wood. Tires were presented as ideas to place around. Zdon mentioned that staff to look into if Public works is available to utilize their skill to build items and that we also check with dog trainers as far as spacing or heights for amenities. Garvey mentioned that she will research a bit with organizations, as Isanti County has a K9 unit and an area where they have amenities. Witte mentioned the drainage corrugated pipe is a good option to add. Garvey mentioned we have procured a couple of large tires to add to the park. Zdon stated that he liked the concept of them being partially buried and Witte stated he liked the painted idea. Witte also mentioned he liked the hoop style of tires for jumping through. Zdon stated that Public works can review ideas and see what is possible for them to build. Garvey stated that this area doesn't have the requirements that a children's playground has so we are able to save some funds building items on our own. Zdon asked if the bench donated by the Rotary will have a plaque. Garvey replied that it has the word Rotary designed into the bench itself and that other amenities will have a small plaque added similar to ones we have on tables that the Rotary Club has donated.

## 6. DNR Funded Projects

Garvey reviewed that staff received information from the DNR that we have some items that need attention for projects that the city received grant funding for from the state when these parks were built, after the DNR did a tour of these locations. We received information on three parks: Mattson, Unity and the Soccer complex. Staff has asked the DNR for clarification on a few of these items as they were unclear. One item we received was to add a funding sign, however after clarification this is one item that we do not need to duplicate signs that we already have within the park regarding the funding source, but the ones we are missing will be put up by Public works. Garvey continued with that she has been in contact with the soccer association regarding the picnic table at the shelter and will add it under the picnic shelter. Public works is working on the adding accessible parking signage and the funding sign was added to the picnic shelter. Mattson park had the funding sign added to the south park sign and another area that the DNR pointed out was the porta potty and accessibility on the grass. Garvey reviewed that the porta potty will need to be placed on a concrete slab to assist with the ADA accessibility item that was pointed out. Garvey continued with the accessibility to each of the playground areas, and Zdon stated that we would do a sidewalk off of the sidewalk and to connect and what makes the most sense to connect these together. Zdon stated that Public works can use their best judgement to place the sidewalks within the park area to connect these elements. Garvey described a placement for the porta potty to be placed and board agreed to have staff place it as they best judge it to go. The other items are being worked on or are completed and the one remaining one we need direction on is the picnic tables within Mattson. Zdon clarified to that we need to address this items as they have been brought to our attention. Garvey stated that she clarified with Mia, DNR person, that we do not have a deadline for this items that they are providing this as information and to make sure we are working on them. Zdon stated that we could budget to add the picnic tables. Garvey reviewed that Unity has the funding sign, it was just overlooked and the gate entrance width will need to be adjusted as this was built before ADA standards. Zdon gave staff direction to further research the safety factors and requirements for ballfields and a gate idea was mentioned to be added as an option. Witte asked if it had to be in the specific area, which is doesn't have to be in that exact but in the dugout area and in each dugout. Motion by Witte to add 2 ADA picnic tables at Mattson park, second by Thum. Motion carries unanimously.

## 7. Parks Updates

Garvey reviewed the summer items of the street dance, Celebrate Isanti, the 5k walk/run had a good amount registered but only half showed up the day of. The three street dances were well attended with Good for Gary with the highest attendance. Curious creatures was cancelled for Sept due to low enrollment, and with the next one is scheduled for Oct 8. Unity park project is finished and looks wonderful. Zdon added to the agenda that there are a few holes in the skate park equipment on the south ramp that will need to be fixed and fasteners will need to be adjusted. Garvey added that the switch for the skate park lights will be looked into as they go off at 10pm, but what time do they come on at? Zdon stated he was there at about 8pm, but the

lights were not on. Garvey finished with the Farmers Market ends Sept 13 and the community garden ends Oct 13.

**8. Adjournment**

Motion by Witte, second by Thum to adjourn the September 24, 2019 meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Board. Motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 PM

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,



---

Jenny Garvey

Parks, Recreation and Culture Manager