

**CITY OF ISANTI
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
April 23, 2019
City Council Chambers**

1. Meeting Opening.

A. Call to Order.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call

Members Present: James Witte, Aaron Zdon, and Mayor Johnson

Staff Present: Jenny Garvey, Parks, Recreation and Culture Manager, Josi Wood, City Administrator

Zdon stated that Garvey is no longer board member, and is now city staff. Wood stated that the city is advertising for the open vacancies of additional board members. Garvey was vice chair of the board. Wood continued that if a board member is going to be absent, please notify staff as soon as possible, as we will not be able to hold a board meeting with less than three people because there will not be a quorum.

D. Agenda Modifications

Zdon asked if there were any agenda modifications, Wood stated there was one agenda modification for nominating a new vice chair to the board. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Witte; the motion passed.

2. Approval of Minutes from March 26, 2019, Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Meeting
Motion by Johnson and second by Witte. Minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Park Visits Summary

Garvey reported on - Bluebird, Riverside, and Unity Parks. Garvey shared that Bluebird colors are fading. Garvey noted that the north wheel on the north side of park; appears that there is a bolt that needs tightening, mulch looked good, trail looks good. Garvey continued that the curb along the drive by the basketball court is in very rough shape and will need some concrete work. Wood added that the city will be doing curb side repair for the Farmers Markets, will do this repair at the same time. Garvey further shared the pavilion looks good and that the basketball court needs new lines painted on. The skate park equipment looked good. Garvey noted that there is a lot of debris that needs to be taken care. Need to let city maintenance aware of the debris and they will take care of it. Wood noted that we have a box for the lights at the skate park have been continually broken into. We are having a new box put in and up higher on the pole so that kids can't break into it. Lights in the park automatically go off at 10 PM. Need to

the check to see if lights are on timer for winter or summer hours. The control box for the timer is control by the electrician or public works. Garvey further discussed Riverside Park with an overall rating of a 4. Garvey noted that a couple of items for maintenance, one is the swing step. It has a bracket that appears to be off or twisted. Garvey further shared that the tot area where the fish piece is appears to have some moss growing on it, needs to be pressure washed. The mulch looks good, but in some spots it appears that too much mulch was used under tot car. Garvey mentioned that the trail looked good, and asked about the green gate that has access to the river, do we need to put up a sign stating city property ends here. Garvey finished with Unity Park and noted that the infield for the ball field has just been done and is ready the season, but the grass area is in rough shape. Garvey reported that the two small pavilions; one has shingles on the roof and are holding up and one has wood shingles. The large pavilion, roof appears to be in good shape. Once the snow is gone, people are parking on the grass when picking up their kids. Maybe we need to put up a sign stating no parking on grass. Garvey noted that the bleachers need a bit of leveling and repair. Wood shared that these are the property of the Rodeo, and the board should look at this item for future use/purchase and the Park Board may need to look into compliance with liability issues. Garvey noted that we should add to our equipment box the city of Isanti name to it. Garvey noted that there has been a porta potty put in the one spot that is helping with parking on the grass.

Mayor Johnson reported on Mattson, VFW, and Legacy Parks. Johnson reported that Mattson's overall appearance looked fantastic and rated it a 5. The playground is in good shape and had adequate mulch, however the trails and sidewalks are in need of some repair. Wood noted that the sidewalks are city property. Johnson continued that the pavilion looks fine, the tennis courts are in great shape and the picnic table looks great. VFW with overall appearance was rated a 4 plus. The swing posts look rusty. It was discussed that the posts could be sprayed with a galvanized coating to help with the rust and to let public works decide at their discretion as to how best to proceed. The playground mulch is sufficient and no obstruction in the park. Trails are good. The park is mainly city sidewalks. No pavilion in this park. Johnson continued with reviewing Legacy Park which has no playground equipment, no safety concerns and no mulch. Wood noted that we use lime ag on the trail, and we have budgeted some money for this year to spot update along trails and the cost of \$20,000 to \$30,000 to re lime ag the whole trail. The paths are becoming narrow because of erosion. It is on public works radar for this year to spot check areas that need attention. Johnson continued with his update of no pavilion and rated Legacy at a 5, all equipment in the park look great. Discussion continued with that in the past there have been problems with the picnic tables, but these problems have gone away. Discussion continued about the parking lot for this park as to when it will be done. Wood noted that it will probably be done during the second phase of construction. The city will probably be working with the construction company in regards to the paving of the parking lot. The board discussed steps and that there are apparently a couple of loose steps that are in need of repair. Wood noted she had noticed during a recent trip she had to the park that the area around the steps need to be filled in the lime ag.

Witte reported on Rum River Bluff Preserve, Isanti Hills, and Rum River Meadow Parks. Witte shared that Rum River Bluff Preserve was rated a 5. The bike racks look great and that is there is no playground mulch in this park. Witte noted that the steps are in of some repairs, with loose anchor bolts that need to be pounded down. The railing on the staircase are in good shape. Witte continued that the trails look good, however the trails are flooded in both directions. Witte noted that the stairs need to be clear of debris and the fishing pier has not been put in as of yet because the river is high. Wood noted that when she was there she noticed that there were a lot of golf balls in the park, this needs to be addressed in the future. Witte continued with Isanti Hills and an overall rating a 4. Witte noted that profanity has been engraved into the bench in the southeast corner of the park and also there is profanity on one the swings further to the south. The colors on the bouncy animals are fading and the slides have streak marks on them from boots. Witte noted that the grounds look good, but add some mulch around the swing set and bouncy animals. The pavilion and benches look fine. An update to the equipment is needed. Wood noted we can't find the replacement parts for this playground equipment. This playground equipment might be grandfather in but if you start doing improvements, it would need to be brought up to code and doesn't meet ADA code and safety compliance. The playground equipment would have to be replaced and not updated. Witte finished with reviewing Rum River Meadows and gave it an overall rating of a 5. Witte noted that the barrier around the perimeter of the park, plastic curbing, on the southwest corner, is coming up and needs to be pushed back down as some of the bolts are working their way up. Wood added that concrete edging is to be put in this year, depending on budget. The two parks that are left to have this done are Rum River Meadows and Riverside. Witte continued that the rock wall the handles are good. There is small hole at the bottom of the volleyball net. The picnic tables look fine. Witte observed that kids are playing with the cover that goes over the irrigation system. Wood noted that she has seen some others have a concrete slab to lock it in place and something we can look into. An ongoing problem within the park is dog feces issue. Public works has spent a lot of time at this park picking up dog feces. Possible solution would be to a fence around the playground area.

Wood asked if the board was aware of the project that is budgeted this year for a fence over at River Bluff Preserve, for a property to the north of the parking lot. Wood wasn't sure if this was brought to this board in the past. Jenny will be working on the project and will update the board at the next month meeting.

Zdon reported on Academy and Whisper Ridge Parks Zdon rated Academy a 5. Zdon reported that this is a new park as of last year and this park is also used by the school as a playground. The mulch needs to be raking this year as it has matted down, especially under the swings. Wood noted that mulch was added last year. Zdon noted that he saw no safety or maintenance issues, the trails look good and no obstructions. Zdon continued with his observation of Whisper Ridge and gave it an overall rating a 2. Zdon noted these safety issues - gate needs a new latch, possibly remove the gate. Half tennis court and basketball court. Zdon stated the trails are a 3 and are cracking and heaving. There are no obstructions, no pavilion and no mulch at this park.

Zdon reported that this park is at a 2, the board will need to decide if we fix the park or get rid of it. Zdon continued with do we resurface it as it does get some use. The surface is in bad shape. Wood added that the resurface of Mattson Park tennis courts cost approximately \$15,000 and awhile back had looked at doing Whisper Ridge at that time and the cost would be close to \$40,000. Discussion followed about what possibilities we could do, take out the court and replace with green space or just put in the basketball court.

Johnson noted that the concrete edging were put in Mattson park. Wood followed up that she did a cost analysis on concrete vs the plastic edging. The plastic is not cheap and has to be replaced every couple of years. The two remaining parks will have the concrete edging done this year as budgets allow.

4. Park Updates –

Wood shared that Earth Day cleanup on Monday, April 22nd. The groups this year included the: Cub scouts, Flagship Bank, C-I Middle School National Honor Society, Boy Scouts, Isanti Ambassadors and the Girls Scouts who will be out on Thursday, April 25th. Wood continued that this year we had every park covered and also included was the ditch along Cajima by Knife River. The National Honor Society they hit south passage and river bluff and walked down the street along the ditch, which was really full of debris.

Wood further shared that the Farmers' Market pre-season meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 26th at the Community Center. We have a numerous vendors interested this year. The market open May 31st and runs through September 27th every Friday from 2 PM to 6 PM.

Wood noted that the Adopt-A-Park program will be brought back to the board at another meeting.

Wood continued that the Bluebird Park refurbish project received two quotes. What the city received were different than the RFP that was stated. Wood shared that the city found out after reviewing the bids that it is not a good idea to completely dismantle an old park, powder coat it and put it back together because of stability issues. It is recommended that we to do electric static painting on site, which would not require that equipment to be dismantled. Jenny and Matt will take a look at the different parks that have been done. The two vendors have done this before, one of them we have never used before and staff will check out the quality of each vendor. Wood discussed that included at tonight's meeting for the board to review are pictures of colors that are being suggested to go along with the teal color on the slides are sand and royal blue. The swing set would be royal blue. It was felt the sand or beige would stand the test of time with fading. The board members noted that they liked the color scheme. The Clifford playground or tot playground within Bluebird park, will not be included in the refurbish, as this piece is obsolete with replacement pieces and when items break we will not be able to replace them and we will have to take that piece down. Wood noted that the bids that came in were between \$8,000 and \$9,000, under budget. This is a project is in capital improvement plan and the balance would stay there and staff is recommending the funds to stay there to be used for

another project and board agreed. Wood shared that this will need to go the council for final approval and also noted that a small slide is being replaced at Bluebird park.

Wood shared that the dog park received three quotes from fence companies. Council approved using Town & Country Fencing. Public works will be putting in the edging. Town & Country will come back to put in the rest of the fencing. This will all be done in the next 3 to 4 weeks. There are funds available for benches, porta potty, dog clean up area station, and one to two elements for dogs. A grand opening date is tentative for June.

5. Additional Item to Agenda

New Vice Chair for PRC board, with vacancy of Garvey, new vice chair to be nominated to board is Witte.

Motion by Johnson, second by Zdon. Motion passed. James Witte accepted the nomination.

Two more members are needed and are advertised as open.

6. Adjournment

Motion by Mayor Johnson, second by Witte to adjourn the April 23, 2019 meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Board. Motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 1st day of May, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Garvey
Parks, Recreation and Culture Manager