

**MINUTES
PARK BOARD MEETING
MARCH 21, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

Present: Akenson, Josephson, Koster, Lee, Lombardi, Reeves; Field Maintenance Supervisor: Tholen; Owen; Planner: Riedesel.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Additions/Deletions): Akenson moved approval of the agenda as submitted, with the addition of Richard Sinclair swearing in as a new member of the Park Board staff. Lee seconded. Ayes all.

SWEARING IN OF RICHARD SINCLAIR: Sinclair took the oath to become a member of the Park Board in the Township of White Bear in the County of Ramsey in the State of Minnesota.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 21, 2019: Lee moved the approval of the Minutes of February 21, 2019, with the correction of Reeves who was marked present; he was absent with notice. Koster seconded. Ayes all.

TOWNSHIP DAY / MOVIE IN THE PARK: There was discussion regarding planning of Township Day and Movie in the Park. Lisa Beecroft was present to discuss her ideas on community outreach and finalization on dates, times, and other specifics. Last year Twilight Zone Cinema Service was the provider for projection and sound for the Movie in the Park nights.

While musical numbers have been narrowed down, it was agreed that Beecroft would reach out to Jane Nelson and Pandora's Other Box and see if a mix of "OPTION 1" and "OPTION 2" in the packet could work as far as timeframes go.

Beecroft will be reaching out to different sponsors and vendors for Township Day in the coming weeks. Beecroft is in process of solidifying a second beer garden tent. There was discussion of easier payment methods for attendees, like wrist bands so one doesn't have to carry a wallet or purse.

Beecroft will be reaching out to marketing and advertisement opportunities for Township Day. It is the 20th year of *Town Life* in 2019, so ad size was discussed for the early to mid-May issue. Between options of a 4" color ad for \$385, 5" ad for \$415, and a 10" ad for \$695, it was decided that the 10" ad would be the most effective given the audience reach and special circumstance of the anniversary.

MINUTES
PARK BOARD MEETING
MARCH 21, 2019

Other advertising methods were discussed. More research and progress will be made by Beecroft and there will be more discussion at the meeting in April.

BRANDLWOOD PARK: Brandlwood Park is on the Town's improvement list for 2019. A budget of \$80,000 was approved by the residents at the Annual Budget Meeting. Funding for the improvements is being transferred from the 2018 General Fund to the 2019 Park Improvement Fund. Improvements to the Bellaire Beach building in 2019 are also included in the transfer. Staff would like to see the following improvements to Brandlwood Park:

- Replace outdated equipment with new equipment recommended by the neighborhood. This equipment includes the spring riders, climbing structure, teeter totter and possibly the swing set. These structures are in the older part of the playground. The newer multi-use structure and climbing boulder should remain.
- Replace the same portion of the playground with engineered wood fiber. Approximate area (including replacing the existing wood fiber) 222 cubic yards. The estimated cost is \$5,400.
- Replace the plastic border with concrete curbing. Estimate cost using current budget= 385' x \$30/lineal foot = \$11,550.00.
- The in-ground benches should be replaced with new ones mounted on slab. The cost estimated is approximately \$2,000.
- The backhoe could be eliminated or kept. If the backhoe remains, the sand area around the backhoe should remain.

These costs should be deducted from the \$80,000 budgeted for the park upgrade. If all the above are replaced, the remaining budget is approximately \$57,500.

Neighbors of Brandlwood were present at the meeting in February to participate in the open forum, discussing what they would like to see in the park. Changes to the itemized list will be made according to the residents' expressed interest. Riedesel gave out three park equipment catalogues to neighbors to look through and return to the Township office. Neighbors from four properties near the park gave their input. The Considine's from 5788 Meadowview Drive expressed their concerns with removing all of the trees because they do like to look at them. There have been problems with bikes near driveways, cars parked along the streets in front of these neighbors' homes. A bike corral and 'no parking' signs will be considered by the staff.

Residents Allison Knuth from 5824 Meadowview Drive, Cara Cardoso and Elizabeth Bradshaw from 5667 and 5725 Windmill Drive respectively gave input based on what their kids like and what their concerns are as parents. Putting more benches in for picnic areas, a slab of concrete for basketball and other activities, and a zip line were some items from these three residents.

The Staff discussed the cost of each of the items brought up by residents. It was decided that the majority of playground equipment that had been discussed at the open

MINUTES
PARK BOARD MEETING
MARCH 21, 2019

forum could be added in under the cost of the park upgrade. The trees will not cost the Township anything, due to the Tree Trust initiative.

The Township has been contacted by Water Gremlin as a part of their agreed settlement with the NPCA that they have 2 environmental projects that they have agreed to work on for the total of about \$1.5 million. One of the projects is tree planting and maintenance in the White Bear Lake, White Bear Township, Gem Lake, and surrounding areas through the organization Tree Trust.

There is still some planning that needs to be done, but once a proposal is drawn up for the park equipment desired within the pricing requirements, the vendor will be able to draw up some combinations with visuals for the residents and Staff to discuss before installation. Fall 2019 is the ideal time for the park equipment to be installed.

Input from the Park Board and neighborhood was reviewed. Staff will contact playground equipment suppliers for park improvement proposals.

RUTHERFORD PARK – THE MUNCH BUNCH – GOAT GRAZING: Township resident John Igo had adopted a park and was looking into alternative care for parks when he came across The Munch Bunch. Allysse Sorensen, the Chief Executive Herder presented her company, answering questions from the Board at February’s meeting. Rutherford Park, like many Township parks and beyond, has Buckthorn, a wild invasive species. Buckthorn can take a decade or more to simply control, perhaps more to completely eradicate, if possible.

The Munch Bunch, a business based out of Saint Croix Falls, Wisconsin, employs 200 goats and serves an 80-mile radius. They have worked with the city of St. Paul, the Wisconsin DNR and the Science Museum. These goats solely eat; they are not raised for dairy or meat. Thirty of these microchipped and USDA registered goats will go through an acre per week, eating about 27 pounds of foliage per day including: buckthorn, weeds, garlic mustard and even poison ivy. The goats get moved every three to seven days.

According to Sorensen, these goats can eat plants up to six feet high, killing the root system, “that’s why the goats are effective.” Portable, solar-powered electric net fences keep the goats inside the acre radius and predators out. The Staff are considering The Munch Bunch because they want to keep chemicals from going into the lake after a rain.

Few factors are unknowns until the goats get to work, like the sustainability that will come from their grazing, how many grazing’s will be needed and how long the goats will need to be employed. Sorensen explained that two grazing’s happen per year, with a three to six week gap in between, for maximum effectiveness. She said the maintenance plan she thinks would best suit Rutherford would be a three to five year plan, but she will know more after the first year’s grazing, seeing what grows back.

MINUTES
PARK BOARD MEETING
MARCH 21, 2019

There is a base fee per time the goats come out, plus a fee per acre. A \$4,980 is the estimated total budget allowing for two visits for the summer. After fees, the \$6,690 will come from the Park Maintenance budget. The break down in pricing is laid out in the January Park Board Agenda. After being provided the information, this agenda item is tabled for the March meeting.

Since Buckthorn has been an invasive problem to the Township for many years; since it would be near impossible to eradicate; due to the inability to guarantee any future imminent success of removing Buckthorn with the goats; and due to the price, Koster motioned to table the discussion of the Munch Bunch until spring of 2020. Lee seconded. Ayes all.

POLAR LAKES PARK: The fitness court: A fitness court has been suggested for Polar Lakes Park. The location is set at just west of the administrative offices for the fitness court, which will include an estimated cost of \$2,000 for survey and grading plans. The court is proposed to be 38' x 38', a \$30,000 grant from the National Fitness program is available for equipment. A restroom is also being considered in this location. Romtec Inc. drew up a map of the potential restroom. **Restrooms:** Sierra IV Restroom includes 10 toilets, 5 each; 640 sq. ft.; mechanical room; drinking fountains; and an ADA floor plan. Capra Utilities was contacted for an estimate to provide a sewer line to considered restroom location. As of March, the discussed locations are near the flag pole, and south of the soccer field. The Sierra IV Restroom will require \$10,000 to \$15,000 to extend the sewer. The Staff proposed to get a map and cost estimates for a 10 toilet restroom. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has grant opportunities. **DNR Grant:** The Park Board's needs have potential to be eligible for a few areas listed in the Outdoor Recreation Grant Program Manual. The total cost of the grant will be determined upon the application's acceptance. The application is due to the DNR by March. Town staff will be applying for a DNR grant to help offset the costs of a perimeter trail and restrooms.

The Planner gave an update on the location of the Fitness Court. He discussed the White Bear Soccer Club Dome in example with the restroom location. Riedesel will be putting the 2019 Outdoor Recreation Grant Program Proposal together to submit by the end of March.

Staff has been working on ways to find sponsorship for this project; Allina Health has a small grant, for example. Staff is working with National Fitness to identify fitness court sponsors. The desired time to begin construction would be after Township Day.

The White Bear Soccer Club Dome: The Soccer Club president Ben Anderson, attended the Park Board meeting. He provided an update regarding their plans for a soccer dome. The Soccer Club is meeting with Ramsey County to discuss their plans to rebuild the Vadnais facility. There is still discussion regarding grading and fill of the middle field. The dome may work with the Town's restroom plan. The dome is proposed to be a more secured field where kids can play from November 1 through March 1. There are no dates set for any construction, as this proposed project hasn't been

MINUTES
PARK BOARD MEETING
MARCH 21, 2019

approved. The cost will likely be around \$1 million, and The White Bear Soccer Club will be looking for donors.

SAPUTO SHELTER: Saputo will donate approximately \$25,000 for a shelter facility which includes a bike repair station. The shelter is proposed to be 14' by 30'. The shelter is a legacy project and will have Saputo signage on the structure. Originally there were two locations being discussed and the staff was leaning towards Rutherford Park in December 2018. In January 2019, Town Board approved the Saputo shelter at Bellaire Beach rather than Rutherford.

Bellaire Beach will have more expense in grading and some cement work, but Mike Brooks with the Lake Links says it will get more use at Bellaire and will be beautiful. The shelter will be set up so there is room for the picnic shelter. He advised the staff to simply move forward with the application process with Saputo. There may also be a big "media day" with the Saputo shelter drawing people from Canada. Combined with that support the cost to the Township is estimated to be low.

Estimated construction would begin in fall of 2019. The Planner will be in contact with Saputo and the staff as Park Board proceeds with the Saputo application. There was discussion on placement in relation to the existing structure.

PESTICIDE INVENTORY: A resolution was passed as an annual update, that the Staff discuss the pesticide inventory of the Township. Over the winter no pesticides were used, only herbicide. There will be more discussion of pesticides at April's meeting with Movies in the Park.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: The Public Works Director reviewed Park Projects as outlined in the Public Works Department Activity Report for February 2019. **Road Construction:** With the warm weather, the Public Works Department has been filling in potholes on Township roads. **Park Projects:** The trails along White Bear Parkway, Hammond Road, Centerville Road, Otter Lake Road, Polar Lakes Park, and Columbia Park will be sealcoated in 2019. The Public Works Director is working on specifications for the project to be approved by the Town Board. **Bellaire Beach:** The Bellaire Beach house is going thru renovation. The interior and exterior painting has been awarded to Fresh Paint and the work will be completed early spring of 2019, pending weather. Plumbing improvements along with the door and door frame replacements have also been completed. The stall dividers have arrived. **Water Tower:** The Hammond Road water tower painting has been approved by the Town Board and will begin shortly. There will also be some minor construction and upkeep on the interior and exterior. The life span of the paint is 20 years.

Lee moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. Reeves seconded. Ayes all.

Respectfully Submitted,

**MINUTES
PARK BOARD MEETING
MARCH 21, 2019**

Megan R. Cavanaugh
Recording Secretary