

**MINUTES
PARK BOARD MEETING
MAY 16, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Akenson, Josephson, Koster, Lee, Lombardi, Reeves; Public Works Representative: Tholen; Planner: Riedesel.

Absent: Sinclair; Public Works Director: Reed; Town Board Supervisor: Ruzek, all with notice.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Additions/Deletions): Lee moved approval of the agenda as submitted, with moving discussion of Saputo Shelter @ Bellaire Beach to before Township Day / Movie in the Park discussion. Reeves seconded. Ayes all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 18, 2019: Koster moved the approval of the Minutes of April 18, 2019, with the correction of Josephson's misspelled name on page 3. Lee seconded. Ayes all.

SAPUTO SHELTER @ BELLAIRE BEACH: The location of the Saputo Shelter has been determined, though the cement slab there is old and will need to be replaced. There will also need to be level ground. This spring the water level has been high, and while there are some benefits, there is some shoreline erosion at Bellaire. Staff is working with the Town Engineer, Ramsey County Conservation District representatives to review the shore bank and stormwater treatment.

Mike Bender from South Shore Trinity Lutheran Church was present to discuss potential future improvements to the park since the church is right across the street. The church was looking for ways to help the community and also has need for some playground equipment for older children, since the playground equipment at South Shore is designed for preschool aged children. The church would help the Township in planning stages and some financial contribution. It was the consensus that the Park Board looks forward to working with South Shore on this project, though it might be a few years out. The parking lot of Bellaire is set to be redone in 2020, so staff could move playground equipment improvements up on the roster of park improvements.

Though Bellaire Beach is Ramsey County's, the Township has a 99-year lease over the property. Staff has solicited a proposal from Loucks & Associates for the Polar Lakes Park Fitness Court, restroom improvement proposals, and overall review of the parks

MINUTES
PARK BOARD MEETING
MAY 16, 2019

development to help with continued master planning of the park; it was the consensus that the Town Planner should request a proposal from Loucks & Associates to help master plan Bellaire Beach. Then once things are moving in the planning process, the Park Board would bring Bender and South Shore back for meetings and discussion of improvements to the park.

Josephson made the motion for the Planner to reach out to Loucks & Associates, or whichever contractor the Township feels appropriate, for proposals for Conceptual Site Layout and Design Services for Bellaire Beach. Lee seconds. Ayes all.

TOWNSHIP DAY / MOVIE IN THE PARK: Lisa Beecroft had a conflict but did send updates that were provided at the meeting. It was the consensus that Beecroft's progress and updates on Township Day looked good. The weather report for the May Movie in the Park was marginal, as it was rainy. There was discussion that the movie may be posted on another week if it is unable to be held on May 11th or 18th.

There was discussion of mosquito treatment for Movie in the Park events. It was the consensus that the May and possibly June movies wouldn't have too many mosquitoes, but due to all the rain and standing water, the Township would like to be proactive because there will be mosquitoes. There was discussion on whether or not the Township should contract services to a pest control company, but due to the size of the lot, the services would likely cost more than the movie. The Township also doesn't want to give any leeway to potentially breaking or appearing to break the policy of pollinator friendliness. For this reason, the Board decided they will not use a pest control company.

There was discussion of natural options, like lemongrass or citronella candles, containers, or sprays. The Board wants to get a better feel for the public's opinion, since Minnesotan residents are likely used to the mosquito situation every year.

Akenson motioned for the Park Board to wait and anticipate feedback from the public after the May and June Movies in the Park, opting to review and potentially revisit this item, but to make no decision in the meantime, and if so to pursue pollinator friendly options. Josephson seconded. Ayes all.

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.

At the April Park Board Meeting, Northland Recreation presented their proposal. Since the consensus of that meeting was to remove the glider piece of equipment and one other piece of equipment to give more funding to two adult exercise equipment pieces, the Planner reported on the new proposal from Northland with those adjustments. The

MINUTES
PARK BOARD MEETING
MAY 16, 2019

Planner also pulled the landscaping and track from the proposal and added in the two exercise components. With these new modifications the proposal price is \$85,812.95

There was discussion on the exercise equipment, and it was the consensus that a stationary bike and elliptical wouldn't be as popular as maybe a leg press option or rowing machine. The Park Board looked at the catalogue and highlighted a couple machines. It was the consensus that staff should keep the adult exercise machines around or under \$3,000. Similar machines to Deer Meadow Park were discussed.

It was the consensus that there are enough funds allocated from the Park Improvement Fund. Koster made the motion that the Planner resubmit the proposal with the leg press machine and the chest press lat combo machine not to exceed \$3,000, and consider just the chest press machine as an alternative to the chest press lat combo machine. Lee seconded. Ayes all.

Reeves made the motion recommending the final price to be about the same as this last price of \$85,812.95. Koster seconded. Ayes all.

POLAR LAKES PARK – UPDATE: **The fitness court:** The fitness court proposal seems to rise in dollar amount, now up to \$130,000 with the \$30,000 grant from the same company: National Fitness Campaign. The Township has no comparable estimates, but would like other options. So far the Township has only invested \$2,500 in a grading plan for this court. There was discussion on whether or not to continue or just walk away from the proposal. There is only one park with a fitness court in the state, so it would set the Township apart, but the cost is high. The Park Board considers bathrooms for this location to be a higher priority and those will be costly as is.

Lee made the motion recommending the Planner contact Northland Recreation to get a comparable estimate of fitness equipment. Koster seconded. Ayes all.

Restroom: Greg Johnson with Loucks designed Polar Lakes Park. The location of the restrooms is still in question, but the Planner requested and Johnson sent the Planner a Proposal for the Polar Lakes Park Fitness Court and Restroom Improvements; it includes conceptual site layout and design services. The Township is gathering information and assessing costs.

Reeves made the motion recommending the Planner go forward with the Louck's Agreement for Conceptual Site Layout and Design Services Proposal including the playground. Lee seconded. Ayes all.

There are no new updates for the **Ballfield Improvements** or the **Soccer Field Improvements**.

SUMMIT LANE PARK RULES – DISCUSS: As of the April meeting there was no one available to take over Roger Carlson's volunteered duty of unlocking and locking the

MINUTES
PARK BOARD MEETING
MAY 16, 2019

gate at Summit Lane Park. Since April, Neighbors Ken and Catherine McIntyre-Velke have been volunteering to lock and unlock the gate, and will continue until further notice.

Due to Carlson's years of service to the Township and his beloved faithfulness as a friend to many, it was the consensus that Staff will put together a certificate of appreciation to present to him to help honor his legacy.

Summit Lane Park, like every park, has rules and ordinances posted. Among these rules and ordinances are: no dogs allowed, regulations regarding the gated entrance and hours of operation, and others. Township Staff has received complaints of users breaking these and other rules and wonder what the Township will do about it. The gatekeepers will also be told of the violations and request they let users know of the complaints.

Furthermore, there was discussion on whether or not Summit Lane Park should operate like every other park in the Township. Some cities have amended the rules and ordinances of all of their parks, depending on the citizens' needs. The Park Board is considering a neighborhood meeting be held before the July Park Board Meeting to discuss changing the rules and regulations, amending the Town's ordinances on this park, regarding the allowance of dogs and the removing the gate. Once that meeting is held, there will be more discussion at the July Park Board Meeting. Riedesel will email dates for the special neighborhood meeting to Park Board Members.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: Pete Tholen was present to discuss the Public Works Director Report in regards to Parks Projects and to answer any questions. The dock was just put in at **Summit Lane Park. Bellaire Beach house** has been painted, currently the interior floor area is being worked on. The complete project should be finished in the next couple weeks. The YMCA has put out buoys and the lifeguard contract goes for two years. Due to the wet weather, the **tennis courts** at Eagle Park have not been painted or striped yet, but the quote to do so was approved on August 20th. The **trails** along White Bear Parkway, Hammond Road, Centerville Road, Otter Lake Road, Polar Lakes Park, and Columbia Park will be seal coated this summer. The Public Works Director will have more information, plans, and specifications to present to the Town Board at a later date.

PARK TOUR: The Park Board annually tours several parks as a part of a monthly meeting. It was determined that the following parks will be visited at the June meeting: Columbia, Summit Lane, Bellaire Beach, Four Seasons, Mead, and Polar Lakes. The members of the Park Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. instead of 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 20, 2019 to allow enough time for the tour and meeting.

BENSON AIRPORT – POLLINATOR PROJECT: Town staff have been working with Beth Artner, member of the Town's Planning Commission and EDAB, to coordinate a bee and butterfly seeding program at Benson's Airport.

MINUTES
PARK BOARD MEETING
MAY 16, 2019

The Town was successful in getting approval of the grant. Now the planning and preparation begins. There are two ways to prepare these three acres: either find a farmer to plant soybeans, or spray round up to the whole area to kill the grass. There was discussion of coordinating with school districts or Pheasants Forever.

Benson users are supportive of this project. It was noted that the area between the hangars and runway has been selected for the planting. There will be more information once the airport members give feedback.

TREE TRUST – PRESENTATION: The Township will have 3 years to plant trees, and Tree Trust will care for the trees for the first 2 years of their lives. The planting for the 25 trees at Apple Tree Park and Columbia Park will take place on Thursday, June 6, 2019 in the evening. Let the Town Planner know if you or anyone you know wants to volunteer to help plant trees.

Staff and the Park Board will be in communication via Dropbox about the future tree planting locations. Riedesel has planned for quite a few and staff will continue to plan for more at parks. Then staff will look at other public property, like schools, for planting. The fall planting should be much larger than this spring's planting.

CHAIR / VICE CHAIR APPOINTMENTS: The roles of each were briefly discussed. Lombardi has been Chair for two years and stated that he wouldn't mind stepping down if need be, but he also will resume Chair. It was the consensus that he has been doing a good job.

Lee motioned to nominate Lombardi for reappointment of Chair. Akenson seconded. All voted in favor. Ayes all.

Koster has been Vice Chair for as long as Lombardi and she enjoys it.

Reeves motioned to nominate Koster for reappointment of Vice Chair. Josephson seconded. All voted in favor. Ayes all.

ADDED AGENDA ITEMS: The 2019 Budgets & Expenditures are attached. It was the consensus that if there were any questions or concerns the members could contact Riedesel.

Lee moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. Koster seconded. Ayes all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan R. Cavanaugh
Recording Secretary