

February 27, 2023

City of Washburn Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

5:30 PM

Washburn City Hall and Virtual

Members Present:

Jennifer Maziasz (Council Rep), Angel Croll, Susan Hall
Jeremy Oswald, Erika Lang

Municipal Personnel Present:

Tony Janisch, Asst. City Administrator

Absent:

None

Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 5:34 PM. Five (5) of five (5) members are present; quorum is recognized.

Approval of the January 17, 2023 Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion by Hall to approve January 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes; second by Oswald. Motion approved unanimously. Hall noted one clarification that the seasonal campground agreement fee reflects an average increase of \$500.

Updates from Public Works Department – Asst. Administrator Tony Janisch provided the following updates:

- North Coast Community Sailing 2023 lease is in process with dates anticipated as only change. NCCS is required to be insured with the City as additionally insured. The only issue encountered was at the end of the season relating to the removal of equipment. NCCS will be present at the next City Council meeting.
- Final design of Walking Trail entrance sign completed. \$2500 fabrication for sign and frame; additional costs required are for design and installation.
- Seasonal campground agreements in process
- Ice rink has closed and re-opened due to crazy winter weather. Lots of school groups have used the facility. Tony is hoping concessions will break even.

Update on Implementation of the Walking Trail Land Management Plan & WI Coastal Management Grant

- 2022 Coastal grant provides funding for two additional signs.
- Work on bridge at the Washington Ave entrance, at the beach should take into consideration ADA accessibility, erosion, and winter surface trail conditions.
- Coal dock/beach parking for winter lake access is going well

Discussion and Action on Review on Property Inventory and “For Sale” List

Janisch provided background on the process. Properties for sale are listed on the City of Washburn website. At any time, an appraisal and offer can be made to the City. Upon review of individual properties, questions about Lot 2 arose about its zoning (industrial) as it relates to the sites’ ecological value and steep ravines. Is it a buildable site? Motion was made by Maziasz that the Plan Commission investigate the suitability of Lot 2 as industrial zoning and what is the highest and best use for the site; second by Hall. Motion approved unanimously.

Discussion and Action on Concept Development Planning for Lakeshore Parkway and West End Park Campground Expansion - Maziasz will brief the City Council as to the Parks Committee’s process and accomplishments. Upon review of information gathered recurring themes were noted: Start slow and small, locate yurts/tents at edges of field, use lots of native vegetation to create habitat and privacy, maintain viewscape, trail access to lakeshore trail, community space, concentrate parking and walk-in to sites for low impact. Questions remained about toilet access, parking (additional vehicles or equipment) and lighting.

Motion by Hall to open the floor to public comment; second by Mazias. Approved unanimously. Jewel Pickert, 17 E 3rd St., expressed uncertainty about the development of the field. She questioned the City Council’s information regarding revenue and return on investment. Roth Edwards, 221 W 6th St., is concerned about: air pollution from fires along with walking trail; the preservation of the area as a “nature preserve”; loss of public land in front of condos; public use/ access in campground; development of camping should be an “invisible park”; questions return on investment-cost differences, impact to property values and economic development. Motion by Croll to close the floor; Second by Lang. Passed unanimously.

The Committee reviewed notes and conceptual drawings created during the public input meetings. There was public comment against developing the field. However, if development is to occur, keep it minimal physically and visually with an emphasis on natural plants and the viewscape. Maziasz will present findings to Council. Motion by Croll to recommend to the City Council the conceptual design for development including these infrastructure features: development at edges support for tent sites and yurts, lots of native vegetation to create habitat and privacy between sites, maintain viewscape, trail access, community space, concentrate parkin with low impact walk-in; second by Hall. Motion approved unanimously.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM

Angel Croll
Secretary, Parks Committee