

March 16, 2021

## CITY OF WASHBURN PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING

5:00 PM

Via In-person and Video Call due to Covid-19 pandemic

Members Present:

Kyleleen Bartnick, Jamie Cook, Angel Croll, Erika Lang,  
Jennifer Maziasz (Council rep)

Municipal Personnel:

City Administrator Scott Kluver, Assistant City Administrator Tony  
Janisch, Public Works Director Gerry Schuette

Other:

Eric Howell, NW Regional Planning Commission

### **Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 5:03 pm by Maziasz. All members present; quorum met.

### **Approval of the February 16, 2021 Parks Committee Meeting Minutes**

Motion made to approve minutes by Croll, second by Bartnick. Motion carried unanimously and minutes were approved.

### **Updates from Public Works Department**

Public Works Director Gerry Schuette and Janisch gave the following updates:

- Schuette is getting a list of things together for spring and summer. Additional information was provided in the meeting packet. Items that will be addressed include patching the roads; landscaping; playground maintenance; and fixing the erosion along the lakeshore (members mentioned that permits might be needed to add material).
- Janisch added that the City has received an updated campground map for Memorial Park that reflects the campsite changes. Long-term, seasonal campsite reservations are just about full. Additionally, the ice-skating rink has been closed for the season.

### **Update on Implementation of the Walking Trail Land Management Plan**

Contracted work of the removal and control of invasive plants (targeting buckthorn and honeysuckle) will be starting next week along the walking trail. A few things need to be done in preparation of the work including:

- posting information on the City's FB site.
- posting temporary signate along the trail to inform trail users (the contractor will work with the City to post these; and coordinating with Public Works Director Schuette and contractor on locations for brush piles.

Members also discussed that they need to get started on brainstorming the size and location for the main welcome interpretive sign that will be placed on the trail. Jamie and Erika will then work on content together and will bring content to the rest of the committee members. They will also seek input from other interested organizations including the Washburn Heritage Association.

Members discussed seeking additional grant funds in the future for more signage and native plant restoration.

### **Discussion & Action of Comprehensive Plan/Outdoor Recreation Plan Visioning Exercise**

Janisch reminded everyone that the City of Washburn will be updating their Comprehensive Plan and this process will also include the development of an Outdoor Recreation Plan. Eric Howell from the Northwest Regional Planning Commission attended the Parks Committee meeting and led members through planning exercises and discussion to continue work on the Outdoor Recreation Plan. Members completed an online survey about values. Some common themes included design and accessibility of recreational areas are priorities; partnerships are needed for funding to get more done; diversity of recreational areas is important; and conservation and habitat are important.

Related to goals and objectives of an Outdoor Recreation Plan, members participated in a brainstorming exercise. Committee members recognized the following:

- plan should provide a guide for the sustainable development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities (sustainability related to economic and environment) things that are important include: maintenance, sustainability, balance place to live with place to come to visit, cost effectiveness, partnerships, conservation-minded, provide amenities that enhance the quality of life, people are drawn here because of nature and what we have.
- we need to continually engage and seek partners and we should be cautious about relying on partners too much. We should also create a partner list and communicate with partners as we develop a plan.
- we need to engage local residents; we need to determine what that engagement should look like (speak with people; page on City website; survey, etc.). We need to get lots of people's feedback, particularly from a diversity of generations and age groups.
- we also want to know what our visitors think/desire too as we develop the plan; we should make sure objectives and activities/projects are realistic and attainable. We also need to think about short-term and long-term maintenance. The plan should be a living document that can be updated.
- we could probably learn from other communities in our area related to how they created an outdoor recreation plan and engaged residents. Maybe we could get a presentation or meeting with them.
- it would also be helpful to continue to visit and inventory City parks.

For next steps, Eric Howell will create a couple of goal statements. He will also send out results of the survey that parks committee members took.

### **Adjournment**

Date and time of next meeting will be April 27, 2021 at 5 pm. We will plan to do an inventory of a park at the next meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 6:37 pm.

Erika Lang  
Secretary, Parks Committee