

June 15, 2021

CITY OF WASHBURN PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING

5:30 PM

Via In-person and Video Conference Call

Members Present:

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

Municipal Personnel:

Assistant City Administrator Tony Janisch, Public Works Director Gerry Schuette

Other:

Mayor Mary Motiff, Councilor Karen Spears-Novachek

Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 5:37 pm by Lang. Quorum was met. Maziasz and Croll arriving late.

Approval of the May 18, 2021 Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion made to approve minutes by Bartnick, second by Cook. Motion carried unanimously.

Selection of Committee Chair

Maziasz agreed to continue to serve as Committee Chair. Motion by Bartnick, second by Cook. Motion carried unanimously.

Selection of Recording Secretary

Lang agreed to continue to serve as Recording Secretary with Cook assisting as needed. Motion by Bartnick, second by Lang. Motion carried unanimously.

Updates from Public Works Department

Public Works Director Schuette and Janisch gave the following updates:

- Bridge rebuilding finished in Memorial Park and working on second bridge now. Water repairs have been made and staff is upgrading electric at the picnic pavilion. Public works staff have also begun repairing the steps down to the beach; rock is being used.
- At Thompson's West End Park, the sailing club buildings have been moved, gravel will be added to the walking trail in several locations, garden valerian along the trail and in the large, cleared areas will soon be mowed to reduce the amount of seeding, and the bridge near the marina entrance will soon be repaired. Staff will also look at the repair list for the playground such as adding pea stone.
- Cook shared that the Washburn school playground equipment has been replaced, but perhaps it could still be used somewhere else. She will reach out to the school.
- Cook also shared that additional woodchip are needed for Jackie's Field in the fall, and it needs to be a specific type of woodchip. Volunteers can help spread them.
- Janisch added, regarding the donation of the small property located near the walking trail and Memorial Park (information was presented during the May Parks Committee meeting), the City's Plan Commission will be discussing this at its next meeting. If they approve to accept the donation, a recommendation will be made to City Council and a property survey will be done.
- Janisch also shared that fees for the outfitters commercial use ordinance have been changed.

Update on Implementation of the Walking Trail Land Management Plan and Wisconsin Coastal Management Grant

- On behalf of the Washburn Heritage Association (WHA), Karen Spears-Novachek presented the temporary sign that will be put at the beginning of the walking trail so people can be better informed about and oriented to the trail system. Public works staff will be putting it up.
- Additional contract work will be done to remove/control invasive plants this summer and fall.

- A small subset of the Parks Committee (Lang and Maziasz) met with representatives of the Washburn Heritage Association to identify a more comprehensive plan and a “look” for the signage along the walking trail. They recommend that the signs be printed on synthetic material and framed with a black or brown metal frame. For the primary sign at the main entrance, it would be nice to incorporate brownstone into the sign base.
- It would be advantageous for the City and WHA to seek additional funding for signage with continued replacement over time.
- Janisch reminded everyone that a quarterly grant report is due to Wisconsin Coastal Management Program for this project.

Discussion & Action Clean-Up Day at Coal Dock Beach

- Joe Groshek brought an idea for a clean-up day to City staff recently. There are some issues at this location such as trash, pieces of glass, drainage issues, old pieces of wood, etc. He would like to organize volunteers to help the City better maintain this location. Public Works Director Schuette pointed out that the public works staff can attend to this location by cleaning it once/week. Volunteers could possibly help; Janisch will follow-up with Joe Groshek about helping between the cleanings that the city staff will do. A volunteer agreement would need to be signed. Another idea is to post signage to inform people of what they can do to be good stewards.

Discussion & Action of Outdoor Recreation Plan

- Jason Laumann from Northwest Regional Planning Commission attended the meeting. He asks that all Parks Committee members look at the Bayfield County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan to see what is listed for the City of Washburn, and to bring back our notes/comments/ideas. Committee members also need to look at the Thompsons West End Park Master Plan. Committee members should identify short-term and long-term goals over a 5-year time-period. Members pointed out that it would be helpful to break some of the longer-term goals into smaller steps so we can move forward and make progress incrementally which will help keep momentum as we work to accomplish the vision for outdoor recreation. Comments ideally should be shared before the next committee meeting.
- Laumann also pointed out that the City could participate in the 2020 Agency Performance Survey through the National Recreation and Park Association. This would help the City understand if we are spending money and doing things comparable to communities of a similar size. This is a good tool, especially for programmatic and budgeting reasons, however data is needed for the tool and analysis to be most useful. City staff will consider this tool.
- Laumann also reminded everyone that the outdoor recreation plan will be included within the City’s updated comprehensive plan, rather than being a standalone document.

Future Topics

- Outdoor recreation plan work
- Artesian well area and overflow camping area regarding management and desired future conditions
- Budget discussion and recommendation for Parks projects

Adjournment

Date and time of next meeting will be July 20, 2021. Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Erika Lang
Secretary, Parks Committee