

July 21, 2020

CITY OF WASHBURN PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING

5:30 PM

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

Members Present:

Jennifer Maziasz (council rep), Jamie Cook, Erika Lang, Kyleleen Bartnick

Municipal Personnel:

City Administrator Scott Kluver, Assistant City Administrator Tony Janisch

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm by Maziasz. 4 members present.

Approval of the June 16, 2020 Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Updates from Public Works Department

Janisch gave update.

- Wendy Reese has resigned as a member of the Parks Committee due. If the remaining parks committee members know of anyone who would be interested in serving on the parks committee, please share with Janisch or Kluver.
- Campgrounds have been full the past 2 weekends. Cleaning is still occurring 2x/day until Labor Day. Showers remain closed. Overall, there haven't been many issues.
- Wikdal Park is experiencing a lot of use with people using the picnic tables to eat outside. The City has placed additional picnic tables and trash cans in the park.
- De-construction of the docks continues.
- When the engineering firm that is leading the dock work was in town recently, Janisch visited Memorial Park with them to look at the erosion to help the City identify next steps.
- Other recreation uses throughout the City -
 - o There was a short season at the ball fields due to the canceled season, but the adult baseball league did use the fields. The City received a donation of dirt for the new infield. However, funding for the rest of the fence (\$5k) is still needed. The dugouts have not been installed yet (Cook stated that she has a family member who might be willing to do this).
 - o Tennis courts are also seeing some use.
 - o Coal dock - is getting lots of use this summer. Motorhomes have been observed parking there and some people have asked if overnight camping is allowed. Is there a sign about this? The overflow camping area is still not open as it is a group site and difficult to manage in the Covid19 pandemic.
- Wisconsin Sea Grant is focused on flood resiliency and has developed a scorecard for municipalities. The researchers would like to use Washburn as a test case. Janisch will keep everyone in the loop in case park committee members would like to participate.
- Storm damage - fortunately, the recent storm caused minimal damage - just minor erosion, minimal tree damage, and some water run-off.

Update on Implementation of the Walking Trail Land Management Plan

Janisch reported that crews removed garden valerian over the past couple of weeks by mowing/cutting/hand-pulling. The open areas (Area 2 and Area 4) were also mowed. Crews also removed some near the marina. The interns from Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area also helped. There is also garden valerian on the slopes of Memorial Park adjacent to the lake. While the City has been awarded a grant from Wisconsin Coastal Management Program to

help with invasive plant removal/control, some additional information is needed related to environmental impacts. Janisch is working on getting that information to them so the City can hopefully get a contract in place for the removal of buckthorn and honeysuckle this fall. Parks committee members also pointed out that there is a dead pine tree along the walking trail near a picnic table that should be removed if it is a hazard.

Discussion Regarding Ordinance 20-009, Non-Motorized Vessel Commercial Use Permit

This is a one-time permit of \$750, able to be renewed. The ordinance will be effective next Thursday. The ordinance and permit system came about because there were some issues with a current commercial operator and the operator's lease at the marina was revoked. The operator has been primarily using the small beach by the coal dock. The ordinance and commercial use permit will allow the City to be better able to manage resources. The City recognizes that additional types of permits may be needed in the future. Parks committee members recommended that the City should look at all groups that use the public beaches.

Discussion & Action regarding Dog Park

Washburn City Council members discussed this at their recent meeting. Council members would like the Parks Committee members to work with whomever is necessary to speak with the landowners who live adjacent to Area 4 along the walking trail. They pointed out that dog park supporters had spoken to landowners adjacent to the cemetery when that site had been considered. Parks Committee members discussed this and decided adjacent landowners near Area 4 would include landowners that are one block east or west of the site (spanning two streets up toward town) as well as the condo owners that are on the other side of the ravine that is adjacent to Area 4. Cook will follow-up with the dog park group about next steps.

Discussion & Action of Inventorying City Parks

Parks committee members reviewed the evaluation form that Maziasz and Cook put together to inventory park conditions. The following observations were made:

- Evaluation form works well for playgrounds and parks
- Volunteer opportunity space is great
- To be effective, evaluation should be done annually
- We can add an evaluation about accessibility ease
- Next steps: Janisch will improve form and parks committee members will review an updated form at next meeting.

Future Topics

- Ball fields
- Walking Trail management plan - update on implementation
- Update on dog park
- Review improved evaluation form for park inventory
- Review list of past topic ideas

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.