

October 20, 2020

CITY OF WASHBURN PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING

5:30 PM

In-person & Video Conference Call due to Covid-19

Members Present:

Kyleleen Bartnick, Jamie Cook, Angel Croll, Erika Lang

Municipal Personnel:

City Administrator Scott Kluver, Assistant City Administrator Tony Janisch

Absent:

Jennifer Maziasz (council rep)

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm by Janisch. Four members confirmed present.

Approval of the September 22, 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.

- Campgrounds are now closed, and season remained busy until recently. At Memorial Park, a road access loop has been completed on the east side. This will help camping vehicles move around easier. One campsite was relocated, and an additional site added. Several of the potable water spigots will be relocated. Additionally, the waterline will be replaced on the east side due to breaks in the line. At both campgrounds, dead trees and stumps are being removed. The bathroom at Memorial Park needs to be tiled if there are funds available. And at West End Park, the family bathroom tiling needs to be finished this winter.
- The dugouts at the baseball field as well as the fencing has not been completed but hopefully both will be completed after October 20.
- Regarding the skating rink, Janisch has had some informal discussions with stakeholders about whether or not the warming shed could be kept open somehow.
- Just off the lakeshore walking trail, the new access road to the well has been completed and materials are now more stable.
- The West End Dock is coming along. The contractor is finishing the paving. The docks will likely be delivered, and test placed. The City still needs to determine schedule for dock removal.
- The playground at Thompson's West End Park will be further evaluated in the spring and improvements made after that time.

Update on Implementation of the Walking Trail Land Management Plan

- Lang reported the questionnaire that Wisconsin Coastal Management Program requires before releasing funds has been submitted. She will follow up with the grant program representative to see how long it will take before the grant contract is available and funds are released.
- Invasive plant removal/control work can continue in the winter and spring as long as temperatures are favorable. Once the grant contract has been signed, City Council can review and approve a contract for the invasive plant work.
- Another thing that the Parks Committee can work on over the winter is the interpretive sign/welcome sign as well as additional signage that is part of the grant award. After some

discussion, Lang and Cook agreed to work on putting some ideas for content, size, and materials together. As they do this, they will bring ideas to the other Parks Committee members for feedback. Other organizations will also be consulted for their ideas such as Washburn Heritage Association.

- Parks Committee members agreed that the new signage needs to be branded somehow and complement existing signage.

Update from Permitting of Commercial Usage in City Parks Working Group

Janisch had a discussion with Mayor Motiff and Kluver regarding narrowing down the uses for what the commercial permit will cover. The current use ordinance is focused on kayaking. They have also discussed the differences that may be implemented for commercial use versus club use. The City could choose to require agreements for some groups and a permit for others. Both documents could also describe how to properly treat/use City property. The next step is to have another sub-committee meeting about this.

Discussion & Action of Inventorying City Parks

Parks Committee members noted a few things:

- more columns were added to the inventory
- under trails, roadways and parking space were added
- under shelters, we will include the number of items found in said shelter
- more space was added under campgrounds
- space was added to reflect on volunteer opportunities
- space should be added to reflect more on vegetation presence/condition, including presence/type/density of invasive plants
- each park should be evaluated annually, but the season in which this is done should be varied so we can see different conditions (dry season, wet season, during high use vs. low use, etc.)
- for Legion Park, we need to think deeper about how to keep this park maintained. Now that the VFW has disbanded, we need to look for another group of people to help the City keep it maintained.
- in spring, Parks Committee members should visit Legion Park, Wikdal Park, and Memorial Park and evaluate those

Discussion & Action of StoryWalk Trail Concept

Chris Lindsey presented a proposal to the Parks Committee for a StoryWalk as well as background information. She attended the meeting to provide additional information and to answer questions.

The following was presented/discussed:

- StoryWalk is a literary initiative that can be found in several different places across the country. The Cable Natural History Museum has one.
- a StoryWalk Trail would give the younger population of our City an opportunity to interact more with the walking trail and the lakeshore area
- the stations would mount on wood posts
- a possible location would be along the walking trail between the coal dock and Pumphouse Road, near the athletic fields. Perhaps some families would utilize them during games, as well as at other times.

- the Washburn Public Library has committed to helping to keep the books updated (they would be changed at a maximum every 2 weeks)

Questions raised included:

- how far off the trail would these stations be set? Would they be out of the way of bikers, skiers?
- how will the area around each station be maintained? Who will do this? Could a small group of people organize to do this long-term? Could the Friends of the Washburn Public Library be involved?
- how will the StoryWalk be promoted in the community?
- would it make sense to place a bench here and there?
- who will install these?

Next steps outlined included:

- Chris Lindsey will put together a more detailed proposal with costs, partner contributions, maintenance plans, and answers to other questions that are mentioned above. She will come back to the Parks Committee when she is ready.
- This would be a good topic to further discuss once the Parks Committee has more details and once the new City Public Works Director has started and has had time to reflect on current and potential future needs.

Future Topics

- Continue parks inventory/evaluation
- Update on Implementation of the Walking Trail Land Management Plan
- Commercial Usage update
- Bayfield Street (Highway 13) update
- Recreation plan development - expanding campgrounds? How does the City further consider this?

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Erika Lang
Parks Committee Secretary