

November 19, 2019

**CITY OF WASHBURN PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING**

5:30 PM Washburn City Hall

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

Municipal Personnel: City Administrator Scott Kluver, City Administrative Assistant Tony Janisch, Public Works Director Bob Anderson, Mayor Richard Avol

Excused Absence(s): Wendy Reese

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Maziasz. Reese absent due to illness.

**Approval of the September 17, 2019 Parks Committee Meeting Minutes**

Motion made to approve minutes by Cook; second by Maziasz. Motion carried unanimously and minutes were approved.

**Update from Public Works Department and City Administrator Assistant**

An update was given by Public Works Director Bob Anderson. Updates included:

- All campground site pads were regraded in both Memorial Park and Thompson's West End Park.
- The material underneath the campground roads was rebuilt where there were curves, using large rock and gravel. Asphalt will be put down in the spring, which will smooth out the areas.
- The dumpster pad at Memorial Park was built up and leveled. This area will be smoothed out next year.
- As a result of the storms in October, quite a bit of sand was deposited at Thompson's West End Park. This sand was used to build up the volleyball area.
- At the Little League Baseball Field, new dugout pads were poured, and the backstop posts are in as well. Fencing will be installed yet this year as long as the weather cooperates.

A few additional things were added by Assistant City Administrator Tony Janisch. They included:

- Two grant proposals were submitted to the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program this month. One was prepared by Erika Lang and is for invasive plant species removal/control, native plantings, and a few infrastructure amenities along the lakeshore walkway. A second proposal was prepared to revise and update the City's Comprehensive Plan. This will also include the creation of a Local Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, which can be used as a reference when seeking additional funding for park projects.
- During an October storm, the current pier at the West End Park launch sustained wave damage, and an insurance claim was filed resulting in \$77,580 of coverage. The fishing pier was also damaged but due to high water, is not able to be inspected yet.

- A purple martin house will be installed near the overflow camping area at West End Park to hopefully reattract these birds to the area.

### **Update of City Council's action regarding the Consideration of Designating a Portion of the Lakefront Walking Trail as a Historical Site**

City Council met last night, and approved holding a public hearing to further consider designating a portion of the lakefront walking trail as a historical site. There was good discussion and very little opposition, and overall support for this idea. To clarify, this would be a local designation and not a state or federal designation. The public hearing will be on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 5:30 pm.

### **Discussion & Action on Family Music Park along Lakeshore**

Nate Swiston was unable to attend the meeting, and as a result, this wasn't discussed very much. Parks Committee members did express interest in hearing from Nate about other potential locations and not just about the lakeshore location.

### **Discussion & Recommendation on Lakeshore Parkway and Walking Trail Management Plan**

Parks Committee members reflected on the fact that while much time has been spent in preparing this management plan, they want it to be a user-friendly document and a document that is actively used. Anderson, Janisch, and Maziasz recently met to discuss how the plan could be reorganized in a way to increase its readability. Lang and Maziasz then met and worked on this, using several tables to display content in a more organized way. The updated draft plan was shared at the meeting. Lang pointed out that the content hasn't changed overall, and when there were opportunities to condense things, those changes were made. Maziasz pointed out that this plan primarily focused on vegetation management and it will be a 3-year plan as conditions will be changing over the next couple of years with invasive species removal/control activities. As we see how the area responds, management activities can be adjusted. Maziasz also pointed out that we should include the area with its beach by the coal dock, and designate this as Area 8 in the plan. Lang pointed out that a few things still need to be added such as updated maps, a description of Area 8, reference documents, and a table of common invasive plant species found along the parkway and the best management practices regarding removal and control. Lang also pointed out that while we have a general direction of future desired conditions for each area based on input from natural resource experts, community members, and the plan for Thompson's West End Park, we will still need to flesh this out over time. Next steps include:

- Lang and Maziasz will meet in December to prepare a final draft.
- Maziasz and Anderson will meet to review the draft and make changes as needed to improve readability.
- Updated draft plan will be brought to the Parks Committee members at the parks committee meeting in January 2020, and they will receive it ideally a week or so beforehand so they can submit feedback.
- Plan will be presented to City Council in February 2020.

### **Future Topics**

Committee members agreed to meet next on Tuesday January 21, 2019. At minimum, the following items will be on the agenda:

- Discussion and recommendation on management plan for the Lakeshore Parkway and Walking Trail
- Proposal for a family music park as long as Nate Swiston can attend
- Dog park survey update
- Update from Public Works Department (which will continue to be a standing agenda item)

**Adjournment**

Motion made by Bartnick to adjourn meeting at 6:18 pm, second by Cook. Motion approved unanimously.