

November 16, 2021

CITY OF WASHBURN PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING

5:30 PM

Washburn City Hall and Remote Call-In

Members Present:

Jennifer Maziasz (Council rep), Angel Croll, and Erika Lang

Municipal Personnel Present:

Assistant City Administrative Administrator Tony Janisch,
Director of Public Works Gerry Schuette

Absent:

Jamie Cook, Kyleleen Bartnick

Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm. Quorum met.

Approval of the October 19, 2021 Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion made to approve minutes by Croll, second by Lang. Minutes approved unanimously.

Updates from Public Works Department

Public Works Director Gerry Schuette and Asst. City Administrator Janisch gave the following updates:

- Campground at the parks are all closed now
- Lift stations have all been cleaned and maintenance has been completed. Staff pulled all the pumps, cleaned them, and made sure they are all working.
- The parks budget will be approved in December. We will have a little more money to work with next year.
- We are currently doing renovations on the warming shed at the skating rink. We are improving the kitchen, removing some walls, installing a window, and upgrading the flooring system. The shed will also be available for summer use for the athletic department for different events, etc.
- Staff is looking at doing some sewer work in the spring near the baseball diamonds and if they do this, they might look at the irrigation system too so it is easier to maintain the fields instead of dragging hoses.
- The City recently shared on its Facebook site that the beached sailboat has been removed. It was towed to the marina and it was hauled away. The City got lots of comments about this.
- Scott sent out a Council update showing the income that the City received from the boat launch. Lots of annual passes and daily passes and just over \$8000 came in.
- Janisch doesn't yet have the campground revenue figures.
- This past week, the City received an application for a commercial use permit from a different kayaking outfit. The outfitter has led trips in the Pictured Rocks area, and his father lives in Washburn. The City has 5 days to either approve or deny, and the permit is only good from May-October for the year approved. We acknowledged we received the application and that we'll act on it next year. We are still discussing where the outfitter should launch. They are asking to use the coal dock beach but that beach is busy with other users, so the City will discuss this further.
- The City recently applied for a grant to redo 6th Avenue, the loop through Thompsons West End and then out. It will also improve parking. We are applying for state funds. If it is approved, we'll have all the work done by 2024.

Update on Implementation of the Walking Trail Land Management Plan & WI Coastal Management Grant

- City submitted two grants to Wisconsin Coastal Management Program. One with Erika's help for more work on the walking trail area - invasives, steps, bridge over the ravine near the beach, and 4 signs. Match is in-kind time from city staff and some funds from the City. Another grant proposal was submitted for engineering design for the eroding shoreline at Memorial Park. We didn't include any match as the project is very expensive with the contractor cost over \$100,000. We could take out the final design part but then we would have to find funding for this in another way.
- Contractor finished the invasive treatment along the walking trail. There were lots of resprouts that had to be addressed. Once the larger invasive plants were removed, small seedlings popped up from the seedbank. These areas will continue to need follow-up.
- Erika is working on the plant order for spring 2022. The contractors provided some location and specie recommendations. Erika will review this and compare it to the view corridors to make sure the plants are placed correctly.

Discussion & Action of Outdoor Recreation Plan, Parks & Recreation Inventory

Work and discussion continued on the outdoor recreation plan by focusing on the policies which will be used to conduct project work.

Committee members suggested the following edits:

- Provide residents with opportunities to engage in recreational experiences throughout the City
- Collaborate with a variety of government, non-profit, and private partners to...
- Combine the two statements related to collaboration
- Evaluate potential recreation service gaps
- Formalize user agreements as needed with partners related to use, maintenance, etc.
- Coordinate long range planning
- Manage parks in a sustainable way that promotes access, safety, natural conditions, user needs, emerging trends, etc. (combine statements 7, 13, 14, and 16 into one or two statements)
- Remove wi-fi statement
- Re-work statement 9
- Leave statement 10 separate on its own if it doesn't fit with statement 9. The fund and the idea of balancing needs between user groups are two different things
- Remove statement 11 and include this as an opportunity
- Statement 12: Promote public awareness through... (add City meetings)
- Statement 15: Start this statement with "Update"
- Statement 16: remove this statement and combine into a general management statement
- A statement related to the City being a destination should probably be included

Adjournment

Date and time of next meeting will be in January 2022 unless the planning consultants need something more from the Parks Committee in December (Janisch will let everyone know).

Meeting was adjourned at 6:34 pm.

Erika Lang
Secretary, Parks Committee