

February 18, 2020

CITY OF WASHBURN PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING

5:30 PM -

Washburn Library Basement

Members Present:

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

Municipal Personnel:

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

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Maziasz. All members present.

Approval of the November 19, 2019 Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion made to approve minutes by Reese, second by Bartnick. 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:

- Thompson's West End Park campground bathrooms are being remodeled. Improvements included removing paneling, replacing floors and shower floors with tile, installing new countertops and sinks. Improvements were funded with Public Works budget. Additionally, a new change machine will be installed at both campgrounds.
- At Thompson's West End Park and Memorial Park, several existing camp sites were designated as premium sites (5 at West End, and 4 at Memorial). One campsite was removed at Memorial Park due to shoreline erosion.
- The baseball field backstop was installed. The high school is working on the dugouts. The City is still short on funding for the improvements.
- The ice-skating rink is getting a lot of use.

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

A couple of public hearings have been held - one by the Historical Preservation Commission and one by the City Council held on December 9, 2019. The City Council has approved designating a portion of the lakefront walking trail as a historical site. This is a local designation, and not a state or federal designation. To clarify, this is a local designation and not a state or federal designation. This could provide benefits such as funding for future signage, and also helps establish the theme of that area as being important historically and culturally.

Discussion & Recommendation on Lakeshore Parkway and Walking Trail Management Plan

Parks Committee members reviewed the plan, visiting several pages or sections of it. Maziasz informed everyone that she, Lang, Anderson, and Janisch have met several times and focused on clarifying various sections as well as reorganizing plan so it is user friendly. Lang also pointed out that while the current draft may look different, the majority of the content has remained the same for many months. This plan is a living, breathing document that will be revisited and adjusted as on-the-ground conditions change over time. At a meeting last year, many residents supported that they wanted a detailed plan, which is why this plan is more prescriptive and detailed than past plans. Committee members agreed that they would like to see the following additional minor edits:

- Add Latin names to the invasive plant species reference guide.
- Define what is meant by "early successional." Create a page with definitions if needed.
- Add the word "vegetation" or something like this to be more specific about what type of management plan this is, and what this management plan focuses on. Members recognize that while recreation and

infrastructure is also mentioned in the plan, the City still needs to flesh out what it wants to offer/manage for related to these things. More information can be added to this plan at a later date since it won't be a static document.

- Edit/clarify the wetland management section as it is confusing.
- In Appendix B View Corridors, add language to clarify that each view corridor should be assessed to determine what type of management actions are appropriate since each corridor is a little different.

Motion was made to open the floor to public comment by Bartnick; second by Cook Motion approved.

A couple of additional ideas were shared including:

- Clarify that once invasive plant species are removed/controlled, areas will be planted with native plants as needed. It will be important to see how the site responds before plants are planted to help reduce maintenance needs. For some areas, planting plans will need to be written by experts.
- For some areas, especially the areas that were recently cleared by the City, we still need to decide how these areas will be used. This information will help guide where habitat restoration will take place.
- Temporary interpretive signage would be a good idea to use when invasive plant removal/control activities are occurring to help educate the public.

After the discussion, a Motion was made by Reese to move the draft management plan with the above minor edits to City Council for its review and approval, second by Bartnick. Motion approved unanimously.

Discussion and Recommendation of Dog Park Survey Results

Reese has been working with a group who support a dog park on obtaining input from city residents and visitors of the City of Washburn. She reported the following:

- 16 boxes were set up around town to receive paper surveys.
- A total of 372 surveys were completed; 35 paper surveys were received, and 337 on-line surveys.
- The population of Washburn is around 2,117 people. Of the people who filled out the survey, 17.5% of them indicated that he/she is a resident of Washburn.
- Flyers were placed around town to inform people of the dog park survey.
- Information was also placed in Ashland and in veterinarian offices.
- The survey was open for 4 weeks.

Parks committee members reviewed the results from various survey questions. The committee agreed that the next step is to continue to discuss the potential dog park survey related to two questions - Is there demand? And Is the lakeshore a possible location? Once the committee has answered these questions, how the dog park would be created and how it would work could be discussed, as this would be the focus once a decision comes back from City Council.

Future Agenda Topics

Ideas for future agenda topics include:

- Revisiting the management plan for the Lakeshore Parkway and Walking Trail once we hear from City Council
- Proposal for a family music park as long as Nate Swiston can attend
- Dog park project - consideration of next steps
- Sailing club location update
- Inventorying existing parks - discuss how committee wants to do this, such as assigning each committee member a list of parks to visit to note current conditions so we can then discuss current conditions and ideas for improvement together

Closing Floor and Adjournment

Motion made to close the floor by Cook, second by Reese, approved unanimously. Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:13 pm by Bartnick, second by Reese. Motion approved unanimously.