

February 16, 2021

CITY OF WASHBURN PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING

4:00 PM

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

Members Present:

Jamie Cook, Angel Croll, Jennifer Maziasz (Council rep),
Erika Lang

Municipal Personnel:

City Administrator Scott Kluver, Assistant City Administrator
Tony Janisch, Public Works Director Gerry Schuette

Other:

Eric Howell (NW Regional Planning Commission)

Absent:

Kyleleen Bartnick

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm by Maziasz. 4 members confirmed present; quorum met.

Approval of the December 15, 2020 Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from December 15, 2020 by Croll, second by Cook with edit to Croll's last name. Motion carried unanimously.

Updates from Public Works Department

Public Works Director Gerry Schuette and Janisch gave the following updates:

- Department has ordered lumber to repair benches and picnic tables.
- Department will be doing landscaping where tree stumps have been removed.
- Department will be repairing two walking bridges in Memorial Park before summer.
- Along the walking trail, department will repair the step and washouts.
- Some minor repairs will be made to campground sites including electric box repairs and asphalt repairs.
- In fall 2020, a new loop road was constructed in Memorial Park and two campsites were moved. Bayfield County will be updating the campground map and the City will put it on its website.
- The road into Memorial Park is currently closed due to shoreline erosion particularly in front of the pavilion due to motorized vehicles accessing the lake.
- The skate rink has been open, and the Washburn Public Library has been checking out skates for a 2-week period. The rink is being well used.
- In January, the commercial use ordinance went to the City Council for discussion. On February 4th, a public input session was held, and the Chamber of Commerce was present as well and very helpful. The draft ordinance was then moved back to City Council at the February meeting but there was not adequate time to discuss. The City Council will further discuss it at its March meeting.

Update on Implementation of the Walking Trail Land Management Plan

- A contract has been put together to remove and control invasive plants along the lakeshore as that part of the restoration work will begin soon. Lang will work with Schuette to identify where cut invasive plants can be piled for disposal following removal. Lang reviewed that some woody invasive plants will be cut and removed, and the stump treated with herbicide following the state's best management practices. Other woody invasive plants will not be mechanically removed and instead a basal bark treatment will occur. There will be a lack of vegetation temporarily between the period

when invasive plants are removed and before native plants are restored. The contractor will install temporary signage during the work period to inform residents. Work will occur before the busy season so trail users will be minimally affected.

- Lang will reach out to Schuette to walk the area with him and review how the management plan came together.
- Lang and Cook will be working together on brainstorming types and potential designs for the interpretive signage that is part of the grant funded project. They will bring forth ideas to the Parks Committee. Other organizations will also be consulted for their ideas such as Washburn Heritage Association.

Discussion & Action of Comprehensive Plan/Outdoor Recreation Plan

Janisch reminded everyone that the City of Washburn will be updating their Comprehensive Plan and this process will also include the development of an Outdoor Recreation Plan. Right now, the City of Washburn's recreational opportunities are described at a basic level in Bayfield County's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The City's Plan Commission will be leading the effort to update the comprehensive plan.

Eric Howell from the Northwest Regional Planning Commission informed Parks Committee members that there are some recreation plans from cities with a similar population size from which we can draw. He will be helping to lead the committee through this process. He explained that he will work with the committee to review background plans and existing documents. Additionally, input will be solicited from the public at a later date. Lang mentioned that the City of Superior and City of Ashland have done similar planning related to recreation and there may be good information to review in those documents. We will continue to discuss the creation of an outdoor recreation plan at the next Parks Committee meeting.

Future Topics

- Continue parks inventory/evaluation.
- Parks activities and budget for 2021
- Update on Implementation of the Walking Trail Land Management Plan
- Outdoor Recreation Plan development

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned shortly after 5:00 pm.

Erika Lang
Parks Committee Secretary