

May 21, 2019

## CITY OF WASHBURN PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING

5:30 PM Washburn City Hall

Present: Members: Jennifer Maziasz (council rep), Jamie Cook, Erika Lang, Wendy Reese

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

Excused Absence(s): Kyleleen Bartnick

### **Call to Order**

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

### **Approval of the April 16, 2019 Parks Committee Meeting Minutes**

Upon reviewing the minutes, they will be amended to reflect at the top of page 1 that the meeting started at 6:30 pm, instead of 5:30 pm. Motion made to approve minutes with this change by Cook; second by Reese. Motion carried unanimously and minutes were approved.

### **Election of Chair and Recording Secretary**

Motion made by Cook to elect Maziasz to continue as Chair; second by Reese. Motion carried unanimously and Maziasz was elected as Chair. Motion made by Cook to elect Lang to continue as Recording Secretary; second by Reese. Motion carried unanimously and Lang was elected as Recording Secretary.

### **Discussion and Recommendation on Dog Park Location and Plan Details**

Committee members reminded everyone that the Parks Committee has been discussing a potential dog park and possible locations for several months. Several locations have been evaluated, all on City property. The property on Woodland Drive near the cemetery is under consideration. Committee members recognize that no outreach or connection to residents in this neighborhood has been done.

Several residents in the Woodland Drive/Hillside Drive neighborhood were in attendance at the meeting. A motion was made by Parks Committee Members to open the floor to hear public comments; motion made by Cook, second by Lang. Residents shared the following concerns:

- Water quality. During a heavy rain, water pools on the road and into yards. With a dog park, water quality could be affected and contamination end up in people's yards. This will also cause an unpleasant smell.
- With use, the vegetation will die and the surface will be just dirt.
- Barking dogs won't be appreciated in a neighborhood that values peace and quiet. It will be hard to enforce "no barking" rules.
- A dog park could lead to increased traffic.

- Residents don't want dogs in this residential neighborhood; instead, a dog park should be located away from populations.
- Wildlife will be negatively affected
- This will be an unregulated park, and as such, there won't be anyone to police issues.
- A better use of this property would be for the City to sell it and put homes on it.
- We already have enough acres of parks in Washburn.
- It would be great to site this park near a playground. It would also be nice to have a trail network associated with the dog park.
- If this location is the best fit, could we modify the slope so the site would be drained differently and prevent water from pooling along the road and into yards?
- A proposal is being drafted as to how the dog park would work, including layout, fundraising, and maintenance. However, the group of citizens working on this can't move too far ahead with plans until a location is agreed upon.

Given residents' feedback, the Parks Committee will continue to look at sites, including other sites, and will further engage residents. The dog park and potential locations will be discussed again in July.

#### **Update on Exercise Equipment Construction at West End Park**

The equipment is due to be here at the end of May. The Public Works department will need to wait until there is dry weather to be able to install the pad, and Anderson recommends that we should make sure it doesn't interfere with the native plant garden.

#### **Discussion & Recommendation on Walking Trail Maintenance Plan**

Lang reported that she continues to work on the plan, and will have more to report by the July meeting.

#### **Discussion on Request to Expand RV Camping at Thompson's West End Park**

Committee members discussed the following points related to this idea:

- Revenue for the City is needed, and camping helps to generate revenue
- The bathrooms at Thompson's West End Park aren't up to code for the current number of campsites so would need to be updated if users from these new sites would be directed to use these facilities
- Before further considering an expansion of camping, we need to identify if this is a good use of this land; what amenities in this area already exist and what additional ones would be needed; and at what cost.

#### **Discussion and Action on Request to Place Signage for Native Plant Garden Near Trailhead for Lakefront Trail and Site Visit to location**

Committee members, Kluver, Anderson, Karin Kozié (who is helping to put together the sign), and two members of the Washburn Heritage Association met at the beginning of the walking trail off of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue W to evaluate current conditions, to discuss signage for the native plant garden, and to discuss other signage needs. The group discussed the following:

- Signage needs to be improved at the beginning of the trail. Right now, the few signs that

are there don't match and some of them are in poor condition.

- Everyone agreed that a more prominent sign is needed to at least welcome people to the trail and to instruct them as to where to go. It might also be nice to incorporate historical/cultural information.
- Perhaps the other entrance by the marina could be improved too.
- There is a sign along Highway 13 that directs people to the walking trail but it isn't marked well once people are near the lake.
- There might be funding or in-kind resources available from local groups to help with signage (such as the Washburn Heritage Association, Washburn Business Alliance, or local artists)
- The sign for the native plant garden should complement the existing interpretive sign in that area. That particular sign stands approximately at waist-height, is set on an angle, and sits on a metal frame and posts.

### **Adjourn**

Motion made by Reese to adjourn meeting at 7:36 pm, second by Cook. Motion approved unanimously.