

May 19, 2020

CITY OF WASHBURN PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING

5:30 PM Via Video Conference Call due to Covid-19 pandemic

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

Municipal Personnel: City Administrator Scott Kluver, Assistant City Administrative Tony Janisch, City Council Member Karen Spears Novachek

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm by Maziasz. 4 members present; Bartnick joined meeting a few minutes late.

Approval of the February 18, 2020 Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion made to approve minutes by Cook, second by Lang. Motion carried unanimously and minutes were approved.

Selection of Committee Chair

Committee members asked Maziasz if she is willing to continue to serve as chair; she is. No other nominations were made. Motion made to approve Maziasz as Chair of the Parks Committee for another year by Cook, second by Lang. Motion carried unanimously.

Selection of Recording Secretary

Committee members asked Lang if she is willing to continue to serve as recording secretary; she is. No other nominations were made. Motion made to approve Lang as Recording Secretary of the Parks Committee for another year by Cook, second by Maziasz. Motion carried unanimously.

Update from Public Works Department

Janisch gave the public works department update. Updates included:

- Bob Anderson, former director of public works, left the position a couple of weeks ago
- Janisch will be interim public works director until a new person is hired
- Campgrounds will open May 26; no showers will be available. Contract cleaners will clean twice/day into mid-July and perhaps longer.
- All of the sites in both campgrounds were re-numbered
- At Thompsons West End Park, 5 sites were made premium. At Memorial Park, 4 sites were made premium. These will cost more to reserve.
- 1 campsite in Memorial Park was removed as it was in a wet area.
- At Thompsons West End Park, the bathrooms were renovated (new paint, tiled floors, new sink). A family bathroom will be needed soon.
- A grant was awarded in partnership with North Coast Cycling Association to re-surface the recreational trail through the city with gravel. This is the trail that goes toward Thompsons West End Park.
- Regarding the new ball field, the dugouts have been completed. Fencing is still needed for the new ball field, approximately \$5,000 worth. Fundraising would be helpful.

- Wisconsin Coastal Management Program has indicated they will be awarding 2 grants to the City of Washburn; one to focus on invasive plant and native plant projects in the areas near the lakeshore walking trail. And the other to create an outdoor recreational plan (which will link/inform the City's updated comprehensive plan).

Update on Council's action regarding the Lakeshore Parkway & Walking Trail Land Management Plan

- Janisch informed committee members that the City Council approved the Lakeshore Parkway & Walking Trail Land Management Plan. Lang volunteered to help the City calendar activities as they are prescribed in the plan. She will do a site visit and give an update to the Parks Committee at its July meeting as to what on-the-ground activities are coming up.
- Committee members mentioned that the walking trail is signed as ADA-friendly at the entrance at the corner of Washington Avenue and W. Holman Lakeview Drive. Also, we need to clarify whether or not biking is allowed on the trail on the City website and FB page.

Discussion & Recommendation of Dog Park Survey Results

Committee members reflected on the discussion from the parks committee meeting in February. Reese reported that people are feeling disillusioned, tense, that there were questions about the validity of the survey, etc. She reminded the committee that the survey was open for a month, and that the majority of people surveyed are supportive of the site by the lake as it is accessible to people. Reese believes we have exhausted locations that are accessible and not in a residential area. Dog park supporters are still committed to raising funds and to put together a more robust plan addressing parking, buffer for noise/water quality, signage, maintenance, etc. Committee asked Kluver to clarify what information City Council members will want - to review the groundwork/research that was done, results from the survey, what will be needed from the City in terms of start-up and/or maintenance costs, and how people view the site at the end of Washington Avenue for its suitability as a dog park. At this point, the Parks Committee members need to determine whether or not they support bringing the proposal of a dog park at this location to the City Council to consider. Additional details about what the dog park will look like, how it will be funded, etc. will then be fleshed out as a next step. Motion made to present an idea of a dog park at the end of Washington adjacent to the lakeshore parkway and walking trail to City Council to consider by Cook, second by Bartnick. Motion carried unanimously. Kluver and Janisch will work to put this on the Council's agenda. If approved, the next step for the Parks Committee will be to prepare a proposal with more information as outlined above.

Discussion & Action of Informational Kiosk Placement

City Council Member Karen Spears Novachek gave background information. An informational kiosk will be placed at the side of Wikdal Park; this has already been supported by City Council. It would be placed back far enough from the road so it will not have to be removed when Highway 13 street work occurs. Displays will change regularly. Novachek will let Janisch know when the contractor can meet on site to confirm location, and Janisch will inform Parks Committee members when the site visit is.

Discussion & Action of Inventorying City Parks

Lang had brought this idea up to Janisch as she thought parks committee members might wish to get outside more on their own and perhaps each member could visit a handful of parks to assess condition of resources - such as infrastructure, vegetation, trails, etc. Having information like this will also be helpful for the City's comprehensive planning and recreational planning process. Janisch and Lang will do some research to see what tools other communities use to survey their parks. Once a survey template is identified, each committee member will be assigned at least one park to visit and assess this summer.

Discussion & Action of Shoreline Erosion at Memorial Park Campground

Janisch informed everyone that the City has been thinking about learning more about what is happening in terms of shoreline erosion at Memorial Park and what might be able to be done to address it. Lang pointed out that this is happening at multiple places along the lakeshore, including a site on the Brownstone Trail near Bayfield where the slope has slumped taking the trail with it. An engineering study was done to learn more about the causes, and what it would take to stabilize and restore the slope. Janisch will keep thinking about it. Lang will provide Janisch contact information for the coastal engineering firm that is working near Bayfield.

Future Topics

- Informational Kiosk Location Update
- Next Steps to implement the Lakeshore Parkway & Walking Trail Land Management Plan
- Sailing Club Location

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:19 pm by Bartnick, second by Cook. Motion approved unanimously.