

June 16, 2020

CITY OF WASHBURN PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING

5:30 PM

In-person and 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 Administrator Tony Janisch

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm by Maziasz. 4 members present; Bartnick joined meeting at 6:05 pm.

Approval of the May 19, 2020 Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

One edit is needed - ADA friendly signs along the lakeshore parkway's walking trail need to be clarified as to the length of trail that is ADA accessible. In the future, City needs to clarify bike use of the walking trail, dog use rules, etc. and to identify what signage is needed. Motion made to approve minutes with correction by Cook, second by Reese. Motion carried unanimously and minutes were approved.

Updates from Public Works Department

Janisch gave update.

- It has been a busy time and the City does not have a new public works director and may need to re-advertise for the position.
- Campgrounds have been open for 3 weeks and use has been increasing. There have been problems with the ladies restroom at Thompson's West End Park. The City has received positive comments regarding clean facilities.
- De-construction of the docks has begun. The contracted firm will soon begin building it and construction will take at least a month.
- Playgrounds are now open and getting use
- Summer employees have started work
- Interpretive kiosk update - City staff and Maziasz met with the Washburn Heritage Association to look at locations for the kiosk and have identified the NW corner of 3rd and W. Bayfield Street as the best location just in front of existing flower bed. They looked at several potential locations. When Highway 13 is redone, there will be bump out and people will slow down and be able to see the kiosk.
- Pavilions are closed to reservations and picnic tables have been removed. The picnic tables have been put in new locations. People are using Wikdal Park quite a bit more.

Update on Implementation of the Walking Trail Land Management Plan

Lang gave an update that garden valerian is starting to bloom on both sides of the trail and in Areas 2 and 4 where the City cleared vegetation a couple of years ago. Mowing should occur before the plant sets seed. Lang will plan to meet Janisch to walk site and come up with a timeline and approach for mowing. Janisch confirmed that the City was awarded a grant from Wisconsin

Coastal Management Program but hasn't received a contract yet. Once the City receives it, contracted work on invasive plant removal can begin.

Discussion & Comments for Plan Commission on City's Land Sale List

The City regularly reviews City-owned parcels that could be sold. The NE corner of Lot 19 was recently reviewed by the Plan Commission to be listed for sale. The L-shaped section of Lot 19 would be sub-divided from the rest of Lot 19 and would be sold for residential purposes - either one lot or two lots depending on what the land could support. Parks Committee members agreed that there may be a future use such as recreation for the remaining part of Lot 19 and that this part of Lot 19 should remain in City ownership.

Discussion & Action of Inventorying City Parks

Parks Committee members agreed that it would be good to do an inventory to have a starting point. Activities can then be chosen based on capacity and budgets. It would be best to look at a few parks to help create an evaluation form, although this won't be one-size-fits-all. The goal would be to get a snapshot of conditions and needs at each park. Parks to start with perhaps could include Wikdal Park, the baseball fields, and Hillside Park. Maziasz and Cook volunteered to visit a couple of parks together using some example evaluation/inventory forms from other small towns. They will report their findings and suggestions at the next Parks Committee meeting, and the committee can then revise an evaluation form.

Future Topics

- Parks Inventory - evaluation form and list of parks to evaluate first and who will evaluate each one
- Update on potential dog park
- Walking Trail Land Management Plan Update (ADA usage, dog use, bike use)

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:30 pm by Cook, second by Reese. Motion approved unanimously.