

June 21, 2022  
**MINUTES**

## **CITY OF WASHBURN PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING**

5:30 PM Washburn City Hall and virtually

Members Present: Jamie Cook, Angel Croll, Erika Lang, Jeremy Oswald

Municipal Personnel Present: Assistant City Administrator Tony Janisch, Public Works Director Gerry Schuette

Absent: Jennifer Maziasz (Council rep)

### **Call to Order/Roll Call**

Meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm. Quorum met.

### **Approval of the May 17, 2022 Parks Committee Meeting Minutes**

Motion made to approve minutes by Cook, second by Croll. Minutes approved unanimously.

### **Selection of Recording Secretary**

Nomination for Oswald to the position; he declined. After more discussion, Lang made motion to select Croll for Recording Secretary, second by Cook. Motion passed and Croll accepted the role.

### **Updates from Public Works Department**

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

- Irrigation system was installed at athletic field
- Minor repairs made to water systems at Memorial Park and Thompsons West End Park
- Six trees were removed from the parks as they were damaged during a windstorm
- Some electrical updates were made at Wikdal Park and elsewhere. Public works staff will put in a new electrical pedestal at Wikdal Park which will be good for bands/music.
- spring was tough for public works staffing, but we are almost fully staffed now.
- the City received a Bayfield County Infrastructure grant for \$5k for tennis courts. A DNR grant was also submitted but feedback from DNR is that the City may not receive the grant as the application didn't rank as high as other applications. Janisch is working on getting more letters of support from organizations/governing agencies in the community so we can generate more points in our application. The DNR meets on June 29<sup>th</sup> to make decisions on project funding.
- regarding the trail donation near Memorial Park, the City now has a quit claim deed to sign and record.
- RV camping expansion at Thompson's West End Park - Cooper Engineering is producing a plan that will be reviewed by City Council on July 11<sup>th</sup>.

Oswald made a motion to move the discussion of the potential pump track to be the next item on the agenda, second by Croll. Motion passed.

### **Discussion of Pump Track Development**

Scott Roush, a private citizen presented the following information about the development of a potential pump track within the City of Washburn.

- he has been interested in mountain biking for many years and has seen this type of infrastructure integrated in communities near city centers.
- there is a group of people in town who are interested in this and they'd like to see more biking opportunities in Washburn starting by developing a pump track/skills building track/bike park. The City of Ashland is also working on this, and it is very popular in other areas including Cable and Hayward, WI.

- the supporters would like to see this in some location near the city center, either along the walking trail in a more open area or near the athletic fields.
- in the future, the supporters would also like to see the City develop a 20-mile mountain bike trail route that circumnavigates Washburn.
- funding for the pump track/skills course would likely come from grants including the International Mountain Bike Association.
- as far as how it is constructed, the group would look at a more durable, hard surface rather than dirt. Topography can be made in the way it is constructed. A few acres would be needed.
- Discussion among committee members and City staff included:
- Janisch pointed out that there is space near the athletic field. It would also provide an opportunity to keep kids' sports together and would give families another space to recreate.
- Lang pointed out that the community, via the management plan, has prioritized the walking trail area as a place for quiet solitude and connection to nature. While supportive of a pump track, having it near there may cause some conflict and challenges with natural resource management.
- Croll also pointed out the likelihood for conflict among users near the walking trail area. She also asked how the area will be maintained and who will conduct that maintenance.
- Committee members were also curious if there is an official group of supporters. Scott answered that there is a loose group of about 20 people who are very interested but that could evolve into a more formal group such as a committee.
- As for next steps, Scott will bring a more formal proposal to the Parks Committee with additional information regarding funding, a building plan, a maintenance plan, partners, etc. using the athletic field area as a potential location. If the Parks Committee supports this, the proposal would then be moved to City Council.

### **Update on Implementation of the Walking Trail Land Management Plan & WI Coastal Management Grant**

- treatment of invasive plants is finished for now
- some piles of cut honeysuckle and buckthorn exist along the walking trail. Lang suggested that we could invite volunteers to help us and announce a date or two on the City's Facebook page. Public Works Director Schuette suggested to pick dates after the third week of July when public works staff are less busy.
- the garden valerian along the trail will soon need to be mowed. Gerry reported that mowing has already started around the City and this area is on the list.
- Janisch and Lang still need to find time to finalize the sign content for the interpretive sign that will be placed at the main entrance of the walking trail. Lang responded that early next week is good for her and she will set up a meeting.
- Janisch shared that he has yet to hear from Wisconsin Coastal Management Program whether or not the city has been awarded a grant to keep doing projects along the walking trail. Lang will help contact them if needed.

### **Update on Bayfield Street Reconstruction Project**

- Janisch reported that City Council approved a detour route for the western half of Bayfield Street. Holman Lakeview Drive and Bigelow Drive do not meet at the correct angle. The City needs to route Holman Lakeview Drive so it meets Bigelow. Holman Lakeview Drive will also be paved as agreed to by DOT. The ATV/snowmobile/rec trail will also have to be rerouted a bit.

### **Discussion of 2023 Budget Preparation & Projects**

Parks Committee members and City staff discussed potential projects for 2023:

- More dirt at the ball fields. Cook mentioned that she is helping to form a more formal athletic group which will then be able to help with fundraising for some of these items in the future.
- Thompson's West End Park playground remains a priority. Cook will help Janisch solicit people via social media to recruit people to help improve the playground, starting with fundraising.

- Walking trail management plan – we need to keep implementing this. If we don't get the coastal grant, we will need to think what we want to fund and keep moving forward on including signage, invasive plant removal, improved steps to beach, etc.
- Legion park – we need to do some planning first and get public input before we put anything into the budget for this
- Trail development of newly acquired trail down by Memorial Park – we need to put up a trailhead/some signage.
- Jackie's field – ideas for future improvements have been a pavilion, drinking water, and bathroom/vault toilet. Gerry pointed out that there is grant funding for some of these things. Parks Committee members agreed that some planning needs to be done before anything is added to the budget.
- Funding for a yurt at Memorial Park – Parks Committee agreed that a management plan for the park needs to be developed first.
- Next steps will be for City staff to further develop the budget over the next couple of weeks as it is due next month to City Council. If Parks committee members have additional ideas and costs, send them to Janisch.

### **Discussion & Action of Outdoor Recreation Plan (assets, priorities & projects)**

- we have been working on priorities with a focus on what projects we would like to focus on in the next 5 years vs. the next 10 years
- Parks Committee members discussed the following regarding parks and activities to complete:
- Triangle Park – yes to working on over next 5 years. Sidewalk, vegetation first. And then infrastructure, perhaps art sculptures.
- City Hall Plaza – city staff is already working on landscaping. The lights will be replaced during the highway improvement work so they will match. Other improvements are already underway.
- East Side Tennis Courts – lots still needs to be done here. The City would like to think about the re-use of these courts into a different use but it depends on if grant funding comes through to improve the courts at Hillside Park.
- Wikdal Park – need to work on a plan/layout first. Some ideas have been a gazebo, band stage, drinking fountain, etc.

Due to time, Parks Committee members agreed to pick this topic up again and continue discussing priorities at the next meeting starting with Legion Park.

### **Adjournment**

Due to conflicts with other meetings, the date and time of the next Parks Committee meeting will be July 27, 2022 at 5:30 pm. Meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Erika Lang  
Secretary, Parks Committee