

September 19, 2023

City of Washburn Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

5:30 PM

Washburn City Hall

Members Present:

Jeremy Oswald, Susan Hall, Angel Croll

Municipal Personnel Present:

Tony Janisch, Asst. City Administrator

Absent:

Jen Maziasz, Erika Lang

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting to order at 5:59 PM; three (3) of five (5) members are present; quorum is recognized.

Approval of Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Hall to approve Park Committee minutes of August 15, 2023 with the correction that the pickleball tournament was held on August 19, seconded by Oswald; Minutes approved unanimously.

Discussion & Action on West End Playground Replacement

Deb Terry, along with Steve and Paige Terry, began discussion that she is a user of the Thompson's West End Park playground with her grandchildren. She continued that the playground is in very poor condition and shared photos of broken and missing pieces. It was noted that the Parks Committee has already identified replacement of the playground as a priority. Terry stated that she would be interested in helping to raise funds to build a new playground and suggested the idea of a direct mailing appeal. The Committee urged Terry to reach out to the Jackie's Field fundraisers for guidance. Janisch noted that the City acted as fiscal agent for the Jackie's Field project. He continued that to increase community awareness of the appeal that this could be part of the letter with the December utility bill. Motion made by Croll to approve community members seeking funding to replace playground equipment at Thompson's West End with the City acting as a fiscal agent; second, by Oswald. Motion approved unanimously.

Updates from Public Works Department & City Administration

Asst. Administrator Janisch provided the following updates:

- Noting email from PW Director Schuette, replacement of campground water lines continues.
- The Committee's recommendations for parks capital improvements will likely not get funded in the 2024 Budget.
- The group reservation at Memorial Park this week, Heartland LTV'ers, is using 32 sites.

- Cooper Engineer is near to final design for the campground expansion. They may go to Council in October or November for approval.
- There is a group circulating a petition, seeking signatures, requiring a referendum for commercial usage in Lakeshore Parkway.
- The campgrounds will close in one month.

Update on Implementation and Updating of the Lakeshore Parkway & Walking Trail Land Management Plan & WI Coastal Management Grant

- The Subcommittee for updating the plan has not met.
- Bay Area Environmental is in contact with Janisch regarding a new contract for invasive control in 2024.

Discussion & Update on Bike Park Development

A site visit with IMBA is scheduled for October 16 & 17. Schematics were shared noting the three focus areas. The committee was surprised at scale/scope and size of the proposed parks. Overall, three members expressed tentative support for focus area two. One member does not support the City's involvement in the bike park, feeling it should be a private endeavor. Discussion included the City's ability to maintain the bike park.

Discussion & Update on Memorial Park Coastal Erosion Planning

A kick-off meeting was held Sept. 7, Fish Creek Restoration will conduct bathymetric and topographic surveys next month. A field trip visiting Washburn's lakefront, for the Lake Superior Consortium, will take place October 11 and Memorial Park's erosion will be a stopping point.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:19 PM

Angel Croll
Secretary, Parks Committee