

September 18, 2018

## CITY OF WASHBURN PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING

5:30 PM Washburn City Hall

Present: Members:

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

Municipal Personnel:

Mayor Richard Avol, City Administrator Scott  
Kluver, Assistant City Administrator Dan Stoltman

Excused Absence(s):

None

### **Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by Maziasz. Roll call attendance – all 5 Parks Committee members in attendance. Bartnick joined the meeting at 6:23 pm.

### **Approval of the August 21, 2018 Parks Committee Meeting Minutes**

Motion made by Reese to approve minutes; second by Cook. Motion carried unanimously and minutes were approved.

### **Presentation by Campground Attendants Don Swedberg (Memorial Park) and Niles Eilertsen (West End Park) regarding Camping Activities**

Swedberg and Eilertsen were invited to discuss their opinions/observations with the committee. Observations related to various maintenance and upgrades that are needed for each park, as well as feedback from campers. Swedberg presented information first, followed by Eilertsen.

Feedback about Memorial Park included the following:

- 51 campsites. Some of the campsites have wet conditions at various times of the year and are not utilized during these times.
- On the west side of the park, there might be opportunities to construct additional campsites.
- On the lake sites, access can be difficult for larger camp equipment.
- Campsite pads are not long enough and are crowned
- The bathroom is not ADA accessible
- Good hosts are so important at the parks
- 5 campsites still don't have electric, but the City is working on it
- Most sites have cable access for TV. The City needs to determine if they will continue to build this out, as it is becoming old technology.

Feedback about West End Park included the following:

- 36 campsites without counting the seasonal sites or the overflow area
- The overflow camping area needs to be better organized, and the City is working on this. Ideas include signing at entrances; installing picnic tables, fire rings, and a porta-potty

- Drainage issues exist near sites 1-13; 6 and 8; and Sites 35, 37, 29, 41, and 43.
- Campsite pads need to be more level and gravel pads need to be widened
- More water faucets are needed throughout the campground
- Vegetation-wise, some low hanging branches could be trimmed to improve site access, and some trees could be planted throughout the campground
- Geese problems persist, although the City just implemented a fall goose hunt
- More interpretive signage could be beneficial, such as history of park
- Docks need to be fixed at the launch site
- Electric needs to be fixed at Site 2A and 8
- Evaluate need for additional cable access for TV.

During the discussion, a motion was made by Lang to open the floor for public comments/questions; second by Cook. Motion carried unanimously. Floor remained opened for the remainder of the meeting. John Sopiwnik spoke and made the following comments: Please remember that parks are for Washburn residents too, not just visitors. Public spaces don't always have to grow income. Also, don't forget Washburn's culture. The tax base of people living here is more than what extra RVs will bring in, if the City decides to provide more amenities which would attract them. Also, cable TV is not forward/future thinking infrastructure.

#### **Discussion and Recommendation on Dock Replacement**

An overview was given about the condition of the boat launch dock at West End Park. Improvements need to be made, and the City would like forward on those improvements. The City plans to seek a grant for at least 50% of the costs. Grant opportunities include the Recreational Boating Facilities Grant as well as Wisconsin Coastal Management Program. The grants are due November 1 and November 2, respectively. Stoltman pointed out that the City still needs to look at designs and determine what type of dock will be best, a timber crib dock (which is the type that exists now) or a floating dock. If there is enough funding, the City may also evaluate replacing the entire bulkhead wall, and not just where it attaches to the docks. Repairing the T-dock will not be included in this project at this time. A motion was made by Cook to pursue grants for the replacement of the boat launch dock; second by Bartnick. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Discussion and Recommendation on Options on Replacement of Baseball Field**

An overview was given about why a third field is needed. Historically, there were 3 fields. Currently, two fields exist but community members do not believe this is sufficient, especially in light of the growing use of the fields by leagues. The City has determined that the most logical location is on the city property next to the current softball field. However, since funds don't exist for a new large field, a sandlot is being proposed. This would consist primarily of an infield and backstop. This will be for a league for the youngest players who don't play full games and don't need an entire baseball field. An expansion can occur if needed in the future. The City estimates the sandlot to cost between \$10,000 and \$20,000, and construction would begin this fall. A motion was made by Lang to begin construction of a sand lot, designating \$10,000 from the recent sale of City property and asks that City Council comes back to the Parks committee

to see if we can help fundraise to meet some of the expense so less funding is needed from park capital outlay funds; second by Bartnick. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Discussion and Recommendation on the Location Options for Outside Exercise Equipment**

An overview was given on the history of this project. At the last meeting, Park Committee Members discussed and visited potential locations, including various locations along the walking trail as well as near the baseball field (with the idea of potentially turning this area into a more robust athletic complex) or near/at the volleyball court at West End Park. Members agreed that additional discussion would need to occur at the meeting in September.

At the September meeting, members revisited location options. They agreed that the best location was at the beginning of the walking trail, near West End Park. In choosing the exact location at the trail head, members would like to work on a design of the entrance to tidy infrastructure up a bit and to make the trailhead look more organized and welcoming. A motion was made by Bartnick to place the outside exercise equipment at the beginning of the walking trail and asks that City Council leave the exact location within this area up to the jurisdiction of the Parks Committee; second by Reese. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Future Topics**

Topics brainstormed at the July and August meetings will continue to be considered in the future including a Dog Park, and Invasive Weed Management along Walking Trail.

### **Adjourn**

Motion made by Cook to adjourn meeting at 7:38 pm; second by Bartnick. Motion carried unanimously.