

City of Waite Park

Park Board Minutes

February 4, 2015

Meeting called to order by Chairman Schmitt at 7:00 P.M.

Members present: John Bowden, Wayne Lenzmeier, Janice Rein, Ken Schmitt, Bill Schluenz, Krystal Vierkant

Additions to the agenda were: election of officers, and update on Library park. Motion to approve the agenda by Member Lenzmeier, seconded by Member Rein. Agenda approved.

Motion to approve the minutes by Member Lenzmeier, seconded by Member Vierkant. Minutes approved.

Election of Officers

Member Vierkant moved that the officers remain the same as last year. The officers accepted the nomination. Member Lenzmeier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Wobegon Trail Update

Member Schluenz reported that we have the legacy fund money needed for the design of the trail with WSB as the design firm. Members Schluenz and Bowden have worked with the Stearns County Park Board in choosing the bridge design and the location of the bridge and trail. Plans are not yet finalized. The Pratt Truss Bridge design has been chosen and will be lighted. The touchdown points of the bridge must be outside of the flood plain and away from the St. Cloud water lines. Because of this, the bridge will be further south of the railroad tracks that formerly planned and will necessitate the loss of some trees. The cranes used to set the bridge will need be on our side of the river.

Connections to the present trail ends will be the second stage of planning. The project is \$800,000 short. Other funds were from the Legacy Fund. Waite Park has a bonding commitment of \$300,000 toward the project. The right-of-way for the trail, from Burlington Northern Railroad, has now been assured.

Park Updates

A security specialist was brought in to look at security. Cameras will be added to the inside of the City Hall building. At River's Edge Park the concern was for the Splash Pad and Playground. Proposed are 4 hard-wired cameras on the corners of the building which each have a 180-degree viewing range. There is no internet in that building so the signal will be sent to the warming house. Ultimately, all of the park will be under security cameras. Member Lenzmeier asked when the recording would happen. Member Schluenz said there would be motion detection and the information will come to the City Hall.

The City is looking at the work on 18th Avenue and the possibility of obtaining the quarry in that area.

Grants

Member Bowden reported on the current state of grants. He was working on a major grant from the Busch Foundation. It was not selected for funding. He is now looking for a new grant, possibly from Coburn's.

Master Plan Discussion on Phasing and Implementation

Member Schluenz reported that the City Council approved our Master Plan and asked us to prioritize the phases in which the Plan will be built. Member Schmitt suggested that we begin with the pickleball courts, the basketball court and extend the parking lot on 3rd Street. Member Vierkant asked what the cost of each part of the Plan would be and how much money we have. Member Schluenz suggested that Member Bowden and the City Engineer break down the costs for us. Discussion followed including the needs of the North Parking Lot, ball fields, maintenance shed and pavilion.

Members Schmitt and Lenzmeier suggested that the first phase be the South Parking Lot, pickleball court and South Parking Lot. Then we can look at the amount of money available from the sales tax and further prioritize the Plan.

Member Bowden reminded us that we need to look ahead for a plot of land for a Southside park soon. The Southside of Waite Park is beginning to open to residents and the price of land will increase as demand increases.

Member Schluenz said he would see if he can get estimates and that the River's Edge Pavilion can be done anytime. He will also see if we can get rebates to convert all the park lighting to LED.

Landscaping Position

Member Schluenz, Dale and Margie Wolf are working on the job description for the 6-month position which will focus on the City's landscaping and flowers.

Update on Library Park

Member Schluenz reported that some problems were discovered when beginning to work on the landscape plan for the Library Reading Park. They needed to get a retaining block wall in place to keep out cars on one side of the park. The arbors have been purchased: one for the South and one for the North entrances. The ground needs to be leveled out, irrigation put in and grass seeded. Member Bowden reminded us of the small raised amphitheater for the children to be built near the door. Member Schluenz assured us that the project will be completed this summer.

Other Business

None

