City of Waite Park

Park Board Minutes

June 17, 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.

Guest Present: Lorraine Russell

The agenda was amended to include Flowers. Motion to approve the agenda by Member Vierkant, seconded by Member Lenzmeier. Agenda approved.

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

Lake Wobegon Trail Update

Stearns County and the Waite Park City Council are now in agreement and the plans are signed. $237,000 is available for connecting the Trail to the bridge after the bridge placement. Bids are being taken by the Council. Member Schluenz recommends that any excess money needed be taken from the Parkland Funds.

Landscape Coordinator Update

Landscape Coordinator Russell provided a detailed report of her activities including the need for additional workers to care for areas such as the large rock garden and the Waite Avenue Median.

Member Bowden suggested that possibly we could get some people who are sentenced for Community Service and possibly the MN College of Business or the Alternative School students could be asked to volunteer. Member Schluenz asked Member Vierkant if she would mention our need when she attended the Chamber Meetings. He also mentioned that the Boys & Girls Club might consider taking on a garden as a project.

Member Schluenz expressed our appreciation and thanks to Landscape Coordinator Russell for the work she is doing.

Grants – John Bowden

Member Bowden reported that the grant he wrote to Bremer for the Waite Park Senior Center was not funded. The City Administrator suggested to him that he look for a grant for an art project. He has written for a grant from Lowes for $40,000 that would fund an art plaza or an art wall.

Parks

* **River's Edge**

Member Schluenz reported that the River's Edge Cameras are up and working. The Splash Pad is at the 5-year mark and it's time to look at operations and maintenance needed. This work will be done this fall. Some items need fixing. The chemical pumps have been replaced as has all the tubing to the features. Next year the sand filters will need replacement. Three motors/pumps need to be rebuilt/replaced.

The City Council has authorized SEH to complete the park design. Member Schmitt will sit in on the meetings.

* **Library Reading Garden Project**

A group discussion was held at the Library and several decisions were made. A sidewalk will be laid instead of the proposed stepping stones, the berm for seating will be built, there will be concrete curbing for the flower beds, the back door will be removed and replaced with a window and benches will be provided.

A new book drop will be built into the front of the building and some changes will be made to facilitate that change.

Guest Lorraine suggested that the big tree be trimmed back, especially over the neighbor's parking lot and that an effort be made to save that tree which is showing some problems.

- **Lion's Park**

Member Schluenz suggested that we consider some changes at Lion's Park. The tennis court is not used, the basketball courts are used. Discussion followed. Member Schmidt mentioned that there are tennis courts available at Discovery School. Member Lenzmeier said that he is in Lion's Park frequently and has never seen anyone in the tennis court but the basketball court is used. Member Bowden moved that we look into possible changes and the cost of doing those changes, seconded by Member Rein. Motion Carried. Member Schluenz said he would look into costs for the August meeting.

- **Other Misc. Items**

Member Schmitt suggested that the disc golf course at River's Edge needs improvements. There is a need to redesign an area for training. He also suggested that concrete tee pads be installed.

Parkland Fees

Member Schulz provided an overview of the parkland fees and promised a more detailed report in the near future.

Master Plan for 3rd St North Trail

One of the items we are considering on the Trail is an art walk or wall. Member Schluenz suggested finding a landscape class at one of the colleges that would take this on as a project and create a master plan for 3rd Street. Member Schmidt suggested we have a public input meeting to get more ideas for each of the parks.Member Lenzmeier suggested that a teacher at one of the colleges might take on the project as an ongoing problem for his classes over several years.

Member Schmitt suggested that a note be put in the next water bill for people to bring their suggestions forward.

Member Schluenz said that the next phase for the 3rd St Trail will be to finish putting in the irrigation for the rest of the flower beds.

Other Business

Member Schluenz reported that the St. Cloud Times would be featuring River's Edge Park in their Walk in the Park series.

Member Rein reported that the Flower Project now has volunteers from Z Video Relay Services. They will be caring for the 5 Healthy Living Trail flowers beds at the west end of the Trail.

This year has been difficult as there was a big loss of plants in all of the Trail gardens due to the temperature dropping to -35 degrees one night last winter. We have been replanting by dividing plants from River's Edge gardens and some from Bernie Schiffler's and her daughter's gardens and Member Rein's own gardens.

Flowers for Waite Park had a booth at Fun Days on Saturday after the parade. Two volunteers were recruited to assist in the River's Edge lily beds and several people said they would consider becoming volunteers. More volunteers are still needed.

Next Meeting

August 5, 2015

Member Lenzmeier moved that we adjourn. Member Bowden seconded. Motion approved.

08/05/15 Janice Kay Rein 8/5/15

Chairperson date Secretary date