

City of Waite Park

Park Board Minutes

May 3, 2017

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

Members present: John Bowden, Wayne Lenzmeier, Jeannie Lodermeier, Janice Rein, Ken Schmitt, Bill Schluenz

Also present: Landscape Coordinator Lorraine Russell

Motion to approve agenda by Member Lenzmeier, seconded by Member Lodermeier. Agenda approved.

Motion to approve minutes by Member Lenameier, seconded by Member Lodermeier.

### **Memorial Bench for Rock Island Park**

Member Schluenz reported that there is a request for a memorial bench to be placed in Rock Island Park to honor a gentleman who walked the Park regularly. This is to be a granite bench and a tree is to be planted near it. Members Bowden and Schmitt indicated that they liked the idea. Member Lenzmeier indicated that this item would be maintenance free. Member Schluenz said that a concrete pad would be poured to speed mowing. Member Bowden moved that we approve this, Member Rein seconded and the motion carried.

### **Library Reading Garden**

Member Schluenz said that the Garden is to be finished this year. Concrete will be extended in the front walkway and the landscaping will include removing the old arborvitae. A block wall will be built on the west (3rd Ave) side with a step formation for flower pots. Finishing the irrigation will cost up to \$1700.00 in the garden and \$1800.00 in the front of the building.

### **Eagle Scout Project**

Scout James Folsom wishes to build a gaga ball bowl as his Eagle Scout project. Member Lodermeier suggested that Jagellio Park would be a good location for this. Member Bowden moved that we approve the project and the location, Member Lodermeier seconded, the motion carried.

### **Grants**

Member Bowden said that he has nothing right now for the City of Waite Park but wish to discuss what is happening at Talahi School. He wrote a grant for \$250,000.00 to build an adaptive playground. It is 6400 sq. ft. with rubber matting and all-inclusive play equipment for children up to and including 4th graders. It is to be finished this year and will be unique to Central MN.

## **Lake Wobegon Trail**

Trees have been removed leaving the stumps to be removed later. The project is moving forward and should happen this year.

## **Amphitheater**

Member Schluenz reports: Cost figures are back but need refining. The Council met and decided to look at new ideas for the slope needed as higher slopes are better for seeing, hearing. The Council is seeking a balance between slope and costs. There is a meeting planned in late June to try to work out a plan. All of this hinges on whether or not the Legislature has a bonding bill this year and our project is included.

## **Park Updates**

Member Schluenz met with the pickleball players. They indicated that they wanted 2 -3 more benches than planned. We tabled this item for June.

River's Edge Park has had serious vandalism. There was equipment stolen for the maintenance building, and damage in the bathrooms at the quad. Cameras will be installed in 2 -3 months.

## **Landscape Coordinator Update**

Landscape Coordinator Russell reported:

Park Meadows donated 2 days/2 shifts of 3 -4 workers/shift again this year. They cleaned the traffic circles off Hwy 15, and the splash pad gardens.

Slumberland deconstructed a box which had rotted on the Healthy Living Trail and spaded it into a new shape as well as cleaning the 3 gardens that they sponsor.

Sand Company has delayed their offer to clean up Rock Island Park due to the weather and will reschedule.

Flowers for Waite Park volunteer Randy Scheil rebuilt the tiny library in River's Edge Park after users damaged it trying to open it. He also would like to donate a number of the bird houses that he builds. Currently he has 3 to donate but may have more later. Perhaps we could put one in the Reading Garden. The Board voted to accept the bird houses and allow Mr. Scheil to place them as he sees best.

The hanging baskets are being readied by Southside Nursery (Southside donated a large number of plants for the 13th Ave flower planters on 13th Ave last year.). When approached by Russell, they bid several hundred dollars less for the hanging baskets than was paid last year and were given the go ahead. Some of the baskets, which will be hung near Rejuv, will be planted with more hardy flowers as they will be subjected to more sun and wind than the others.

A study is needed before we can proceed to the next step in establishing a community garden. Member Lodermeier suggested thinking about raised gardens for the apartments. Member Bowden suggested that we need to decide what kind of community garden we want and that we have a sub-committee to look into all aspects of the project. Member Schluenz said there must be rules and regulations as well as estimates of cost. Members Bowden and Lodermeier offered to form the subcommittee to study the feasibility first and look for space later. Approved.


Member Schluez requested that Coordinator Russell research the possibility of obtaining a used greenhouse for Waite Park. He will possibly be able to budget for it next year.

**Other Business**

The opening for the new Pickleball Courts is scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 8:30 P.M. The Park Board will plan to meet at City Hall at 6:00 P.M. and proceed to River's Edge Park after a short meeting, unless it is decided differently. In that case, we will meet at the Pickleball Courts at 7:30 p.m. Member Schluez will notify us to which option he chooses.

Next meeting will be June 7, 2017 or July 12, 2017, depending upon the above option.

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

  
Chairperson

06/07/17.  
date

  
Secretary

06/06/17  
date