

MINUTES
PARKS & TRAILS COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 12, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tina Kaney, Mary Auger, Annette Meyer, and Tom Anderson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Don Heinonen, Tonya Prim, and Wendy Kvale

COUNCIL & BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: Michael Meelhouse

CITY STAFF & OTHERS: Cooper Heimark, Saige Glaser, Reymond Rohl, Marcia Larson and Lolly Randall

CALL TO ORDER:

Tina Kaney called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 8, 2019 MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Auger, to approve the January 8, 2019 Meeting Minutes with the addition that Wendy joined the meeting and took over as Chair. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2019:

Nomination by Auger, seconded by Meyer, to nominate Kvale as the Chair. Upon unanimous vote, Kvale was elected Chair for 2019.

Nomination by Auger, seconded by Meyer, to nominate Anderson as the Vice Chair. Anderson accepted. Upon unanimous vote, Anderson was elected Vice Chair for 2019.

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY PROPOSAL

Cooper Heimark, Saige Glaser, and Reymond Rohl, BSU Construction Management students presented their project for building and installing little free libraries in city parks. Some parks they had in mind are Paul Bunyan/Library parks, Cameron, Nymore and South Shore parks. Their presentation provided the size and the materials that the libraries will be built out of. They also had a half-scale model of the actual little library. The BSU students proposed to build three little libraries and provide quality checks for the remainder of the semester. They ask that the city pay the \$40 registration on each library and provide the pole that will support the library as well as install them and do maintenance on them in the future. They plan to have the projects completed by April 30th. Once the little libraries are registered, a start-up kit that is sent that includes how the free little library system works and the locations of all of them.

Currently, there is a little library in Diamond Point and Roger Lehman parks. Discussed putting them in neighborhood parks like Gordon Falls and Nymore Park.

Motion by Auger, seconded by Anderson, to approve the BSU students plan of building three Little Free Libraries, with the City installing them and paying the \$40.00 registration fee for each. Motion Carried.

Suggested to look at the current locations of the little free libraries in Bemidji to help select the locations for these new ones.

MUSICAL PLAYGROUND PROJECT UPDATE

Daniel Roberts raised over \$11,300 for this project. Marcia, Daniel and a rep from Flagship Recreation met this week and finalized the order. Flagship is donating \$300 to the project and the City is contributing approximately \$1,000. The total cost for the equipment is approximately \$12,500. The timeline for this project is as follows:

March-April – Daniel will present his project and the check for the equipment to the City Council.

May 6th-10th – Site prep. The city will remove the turf and Daniel and the Scouts will prep the site and the concrete will be poured in May as well.

June – Installation of the equipment.

June-July – Ribbon cutting celebration.

The items will be installed into concrete. The colors selected were blue, tan, and leaf.

GORDON FALLS PARK DISCUSSION

A draft concept of the park along with a budget was included in the packet. There is \$60,000 available in the CIP for the playground, \$50,000 in general park improvements budget and \$190,000 in parkland dedications fees. There is a possibility to reduce some costs by working with the Engineering/Street Departments when they are doing work in the area. Some of the amenities can be added later such as benches and trees.

When looking at the budget for Gordon Falls Park, the question was raised if there are other parks that will need consideration. Marcia stated that the building at Cameron Park will demand some attention at some point. Hockey Day may have money to install an outdoor rink and Cameron Park could be an ideal location for this. It would be ideal to update the building so it could be used as a warming house. Marcia will see if there could be DNR grants that could help with costs on a building at Cameron Park.

Marcia will refine the budget for Gordon Falls and start getting quotes.

DIRECTOR UPDATE

- Rec Desk - facility reservation went live on February 1st and 2 on-line reservations have been received to date.
- Carnegie – the City Council approved the change order for the basement/office space. There are two interested tenants that have submitted letters of intent.
- Ice Study – is complete and the consultants will be presenting at the re-scheduled meeting on March 11th City Council Worksession. This meeting is at 5:30 in the Council Chambers.

- South Shore Turnaround – an RFP for consultant services for design is being drafted by the Engineering department. The project timeline is after July 4th into the fall.
- The public works committee will meet on February 26th to discuss the special events permit and will go back to city council on March 4th.
- Working at getting ready for summer staffing.
- The recreation department is planning on doing half day tween camps and working on a rec on the go style program.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Auger, seconded by Anderson, to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lolly Randall
Administrative Assistant