

MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
March 23, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Anderson, Tim Faver, Gwenia Fiskevold Gould, Don Heinonen, Wendy Kvale, Tonya Prim, and Bethany Wesley

COUNCIL & BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: Jorge Prince

CITY STAFF & OTHERS: Marcia Larson, Lolly Randall, Brian Grund, and Mark Fuller

CALL TO ORDER:

Tonya Prim called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

PAUL BUNYAN PARK PLAZA DRAINAGE

Reviewed the drainage issue on the plaza and the affect it is having especially on Babe's hooves. At their March 15th meeting, the City Council approved spending \$24,500.00 to hire Jenson Conservation Services Inc. for the conservation treatment of Paul and Babe They also agreed to hire Freeberg and Grund in the amount of \$8,950 to design a solution for the drainage issues on the plaza.

Jenson Conservation is in agreement to work on the Paul and Babe statues and complete the work prior to the Memorial Day weekend. Once the conservation work is completed, the work can begin to fix the drainage problem on the plaza.

Brian Grund and Mark Fuller of Freeberg and Grund, presented their plan to fix the drainage issue which includes placement of an additional catch basin, adding an additional larger pipe that will help eliminate some of the freezing issues. This also involves removing existing concrete and then re-grading the site and then replacing the removed concrete. This new slope and concrete will need to meet ADA requirements. This plan will drain water before it gets to Babe and re-route and drain the water that may continue to accumulate near Babe. This plan provides a permanent solution to the drainage issues on the plaza.

Discussed doing a colored concrete that would be more of a contrast to the existing concrete to alleviate some of the public's concerns. Marcia agreed to pull color samples from the project file for review. It is best to keep it basic to keep the cost down. There is some color variation currently at the plaza. Discussed the timing issue if public input is needed. Detailed decisions like this on projects are not generally taken to public but rather the Parks and Recreation Commission makes recommendations to the City Council.

Mark Fuller summarized the work they proposed as follows:

Saw cut and remove concrete, regrade the base, add in a shallow catch basin, add in a connecting pipe to deal with the water that will accumulate around Babe, final grade, replace the concrete in the work site.

Questioned the catch basin that is currently behind babe that is above ground. Mark explained that this was added later in the last project. He felt the bigger issue was the berm behind babe. They plan to insure that the grass behind the statues is lower to allow for better drainage. Also discussed adding more concrete behind Babe to potentially assist in drainage and maintenance.

Discussed that the Babe statue is 1 ½ feet lower than the Paul Bunyan statue. Possible reasons for this are that the statues were put in at different times, also the composition of the land has caused Babe to sink. Discussed the potential expense of raising Babe which would also be a permanent solution but the drainage issues will still need to be addressed.

Mayor Prince said he would like to see a couple of options that are long term solutions and the costs associated with them presented to the City Council. He would also like the City Council to understand how the drainage issue came about and look at any possible liability.

Marcia stated that when Jensen Conservation assessed the issues with Babe, they recommended to not lift Babe. His recommendation was based on his knowledge of the statue and from discussions he had with others that have moved/lifted large statues. Marcia will get more information from him regarding this recommendation and stated she has concern with the timeline and the cost of raising Babe.

Discussed looking back at construction records and meeting minutes regarding the construction of the plaza to determine what happened and why.

Marcia summarized the two long term solutions as follows:

1. The plan that has been presented today by Freeberg and Grund which is more economical and meets an acceptable timeline.
2. Raising Babe that still includes having to address the drainage problems and is the most complicated, if even possible and the most expensive option.

It was suggested to give the City Council the two options along with the costs and timelines of each and let them decide. It was understood that Paul and Babe will always require maintenance and this project does not eliminate that need.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Heinonen, to accept the Freeberg & Grund proposed solution of the drainage issue on the plaza near Paul and Babe with an approximate construction cost of \$100,000 as a permanent solution. To include looking at the possibility and cost of raising Babe to present to the City Council. Motion carried.

Freeberg and Grund will consider the possibility of raising babe if not now maybe in the future when developing plans. Marcia will work at getting the historical information for the Park and Recreation Commissioners if not before, by their next meeting which is April 13th.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Fiskevold Gould, seconded by Faver, to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lolly Randall
Administrative Assistant