

**MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
APRIL 13, 2021**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Anderson, Gwenia Fiskevold Gould, Tonya Prim, and Bethany Wesley

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tim Faver, Don Heinonen, and Wendy Kvale

COUNCIL & BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: Dan Jourdain

CITY STAFF & OTHERS: Marcia Larson, Lolly Randall, Keith Kinnen, Mitch Rautio, and Brian Grund.

CALL TO ORDER:

Tonya Prim called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA:

No amendments were made

APPROVAL OF MARCH 9, 2021 MEETING MINUTES AND MARCH 23, 2021 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Fiskevold Gould, seconded by Wesley, to approve the March 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes and the March 23, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes as written. Motion carried.

PAUL BUNYAN PARK PLAZA

Discussed that a contract has been signed between the City and Jensen Construction for the conservation work that needs to be done on the Paul and Babe statues located at Paul Bunyan Park. The work should be completed by the end of May as long as the weather permits.

Discussed the preliminary report on the drainage issue at the Paul Bunyan plaza. Brian Grund of Freeberg & Grund Inc., summarized the report as follows: addressed the idea of raising the base of Babe about 1.5 feet which would bring it up to the level of Paul. This is Alternate #1 to the drainage issue. In 2004, the City hired Jensen Conservation Services to restore Babe. Initially they were going to rebuild Babe's foundation but decided against it because they found it is too fragile of a structure to withstand the pressures of movement.

Alternative #2 includes excavating the area adjacent to Babe to route drainage into the landscaped area. This involves removing the berm and possibly some of the trees that are to the east of Babe. This would still leave drainage issues and the water would still flow beneath Babe.

Alternates #3 and #4 are very similar with the difference being how much concrete is removed. Alternate #3 removes all of the concrete and Alternative #4 includes adding an additional catch basin and removing part of the concrete plaza. Brian Grund's recommendation is Alternative #4. It resolves the drainage issue maintains the integrity of Babe, minimizes cost of project as much

as possible and meets ADA requirements. They will try to match the colored concrete the best they can.

Discussed the liability issue that Mayor Prince raised at the last meeting. From an Engineer's standpoint, Brian Grund, could not find any liability based on all of the information he had available to him and believes this issue should rest in the hands of the city of attorney. Brian made the point that it is unusual to try to place blame six years later. Marcia will follow up with the city attorney regarding the liability issue.

Motion by Wesley, seconded by Fiskevold Gould, to approve Alternative #4 on the Preliminary Report submitted by Brian Grund of Freeberg & Grund Inc. and share all of the information presented to the City Council. Motion carried.

Discussed how often the statues need work and how long the \$24,000 fix will last. Marcia explained that there is yearly maintenance that might be minimal. The \$24,000 fix is not a common repair cost. There is about \$3,000 to \$4,000 spent every three to four years.

MOUNTAIN VIEW MEADOWS PARK – KEITH KINNEN AND MITCH RAUTIO

A new park is going to be developed in the new housing development Mountain View Meadows being built by Mitch Ratio.

Developer Mitch Ratio and Keith Kinnen of Karvakko Eningeering, shared a layout of the project. It is the first phase of three phases. There are 48 acres in the entire project that will house single family and multi-family family housing along with the park. Reviewed the park plan that includes a lighted parking lot, a bike trail, detention pond that could be flooded in the winter for skating and trail that could be a connection to the Paul Bunyan trail. The park includes large open green space. The hill base will be lifted to make it a better sledding hill. There will be a timber structure at the entrance to the park that could be used as a picnic shelter. Reviewed the playground area that has a timber, natural log character. There are several play pods within the playground and are at different elevations. The playground utilizes the elevations as a way to get to the different playground pods. Pod 1 is all ADA compliant and provides accessibility. The focal point will be the wide, steep slide.

Mitch's timeline is to start his project in 2021 with the park starting within five years. Today they are looking for feedback from the Commissioners regarding the concept and how it fits into the city's park system.

Discussed the population of the area that includes 85 single family and 112 multi-family housing. Lots can be sold and buyer can use their own builder and design or choose from Mitch's design. The park is intended for those living in the development but will also be available to the public since there are not a lot of parks available on this end of town. Mitch will incur the cost to build the park and turn it over to the city and the city will maintain it. The city would have to build the future pavilions and restrooms. The development will provide the infrastructure for the restrooms which will curb future costs for the city.

The commissioners agreed that the park concept is awesome and really appreciated Mitch's thought and passion that he has put into the project

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Wesley, to approve the concept presented by Developer Mitch Ratio and Keith Kinnen from Karvakko Engineering. Motion carried.

NATURAL PLAYGROUND PROJECT

The Phase 1 construction quotes for the Natural Playground project were sent out in March. One quote was received from Frenzel Construction. Their quote was much higher than the consultant Learning Landscape's estimate. After meeting with the consultant and Frenzel Construction, the costs were reduced by removing items that can be added later or completed by volunteers or Park staff. Frenzel's initial quote was \$86,570, almost \$30,000 higher than the estimate, but by removing certain items, the quote was reduced by \$23,030. The changes are removing the fence, benches, and soil prep and planting including compost, mulch, trees, and shrubs. This brought the quote to \$63,540.00 and the estimate was approximately \$57,000.

Currently, the funding for the park is \$30,000 from the Rotary Club and \$50,000 from the Parks CIP. The work that was completed in 2020 was \$6,700 for the walking trail and native planting. Marcia recommended awarding the quote to Frenzel Construction for \$63,540. They would like to start in May of 2021 and would have until September to complete the project. Discussed the fencing that would be a wood fence bordering the creation station separating it from the parking lot. It will act as a safety feature from the parking lot.

The Natural Playground Committee met yesterday and will be submitting grants to Neilson Foundation and Beltrami Electric Roundup to help fund the project.

Motion by Wesley, seconded by Anderson, to award the project to Frenzel Construction for \$63,540.00. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Bethany announced there is a TIC group meeting on Thursday.

DIRECTORS UPDATE

Received an MRPA award of excellence for the social distancing education and engagement videos. Staffing – Aaron Weeks, the new Park's Superintendent will start on April 29th. The Park Programming and Special Events Position was filled by Amber Reisetter and she will start on April 26th. Hiring for seasonal positions is progressing but there is a struggle to find applicants.

Camp is open for registrations. Seasonal positions are open to 16 year olds. Marcia met with the sustainability group at BSU and discussed the nice ride bikes to see if they might be available for bike rentals at the TIC.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Fiskevold Gould, to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lolly Randall
Administrative Assistant