

May 18, 2020 Park & Recreation Minutes

Park Board Members Present: Jill Papesh, Blake Broding, Travis Koenen and Carla Vita

Park Board Members Absent: Robert Peters, Jacquilen Strandberg and Dan Voce

Others in attendance: Bob Barbian, Bob Gerold, Stephanie Hillsheim, Warren White (Professional Civil Engineer) and Jules Zimmer

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 24th, 2020.
Motion by Papesh, seconded by Koenen to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3. New Business

4. Reports by Staff

- a. Mark Park

- b. Splash Park

Barbian brought up whether the Splash Pad should open this year.

Conversation took place from not at all to a partial season to all year with social distancing. Conversation on the difficulty to have young kids, that use the splash park, to maintain social distancing. Safety is the very top priority of the park, and the Virus is easily spread. Consensus is to close the splash park for the season.

- c. Riverside Park

- 1) Park Project and RFP – Tab B

White informed that MNDOT did not approve of the trail along TH 95 due to the close proximity to the road. Relocation north to the roundabout along the existing sidewalk and trail from the bridge to park will be 8 feet gravel. Barbian informed that staff gave the Park Board 3 pages of plans for the meeting. He inquired to whether the Board was tolerant of the plan. Papesh inquired to the reduction in cost with the MNDOT trail/sidewalk issue. White said it would be approximately \$8,000 less. Vita expressed her concern on the gap in the project funding.

Barbian said that the full project is \$461,000. Hillsheim indicated that the full project is \$7,000 is under budget. Barbian stated that the issues are design and funding. The City's share of the project is \$193,000. Barbian brought up enacting a lodging tax for a funding option. He also stated that rocks from the Princeton Visionary Committee could be used. Zimmer inquired if the franchise fee that the City enacted covered the trail, Riverside and Reibe park issues. Barbian stated that not all the costs are in for the Great River trail, but the trail is over budget. Broding expressed a concern that the proposal by Barbian would exhaust almost all of the Park funds to cover this project. Papesh expressed a concern that in an earlier meeting that Hillsheim stated that no additional funds were needed for the Riverside

and Reibe projects. Zimmer informed that he understood that this project was covered under the franchise fee. Papesh went into detail as to where all the funds and donations for the completion of Riverside would take place. None of the detail included park dedication funds.

Vita questioned the process used for the grant submittal and funding towards the grant as this issue is not typical of the cities she worked. Barbian stated that he wants to move funds of the projects that the Park Board budgeted towards to cover the Riebe and Riverside Park project. Gerald detailed that the following funds could be used to cover the gap: shade fund for the splash park, equipment fund for Civic Center Park, and Park Dedication funds. No equipment has been ordered due to the virus.

Papesh inquired if the City has funds for this matter. Gerold stated that one reason this issue exists is the Public Utilities choice to not pay the Payment in Lieu of Taxes which led to a budget gap. Barbian stated that a gap remains to complete the Riverside/Reibe park project. He stated that the Great River trail came in over budget.

After much conversation on concerns on the grant process, budget process, why this project needs additional funding from our last review in which not gap occurred, and so forth, Vita made a motion to table the matter and call for a special meeting, Koenen made a second.

The meeting was determined for Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at 6pm at Mark Park.

Barbian questioned what the Park Board would like for their meeting. Vita stated that she wants to know if when the \$200,000 grant went to the City Council for approval, what did the staff present and Council approve for the funding. Vita asked for clarification of what “project costing” means in the memo presented by Staff. Vita also asked if/what can be removed from the bid to bring the project into cost. Vita also inquired if Gerold had been given a chance to find more affordable ways to complete the project. Barbian asked for all other questions to be sent to him for investigation. Warren stated that the trail from Riverside to Riebe is not in the original plans.

Conversation on the 1 way street/path thru Reibe Park. Gerold stated that it would be for emergency vehicles, people camping would need to cart their belongings to the campsite.

White discussed the boat trailer parking in Riverside Park. Conversation on the requirement by the DNR for the parking and the length between the parking and the launch.

d. Rainbow Park

e. Riebe Park

- f. Pioneer Park
- g. Riverview Terrace Nature Park
- h. Civic Center Park

All above items without notes were tabled for the May 27 Park Board special meeting. Motion by Vita, second by Broding. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Old Business

None.

6. Miscellaneous

None.

7. Adjourn

Motion by Broding, second by Koenen to adjourn. Adjournment at 7:01pm.