

CITY OF HERMANTOWN
PARK BOARD
November 15, 2016 Meeting Summary
4:30 PM

1. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Gene Shaw; Jim Sonneson; Tom Eng; Mike Miller; and Natalie Peterson

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: John Mulder, City Administrator; Eric Johnson, Community Development Director; Zachary Graves; James R. Sonneson; and Nate Hooper.

2. MINUTES

Motion made by Gene Shaw to approve the September 20, 2016 regular meeting minutes. Seconded by Mike Miller. Motion carried.

3. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Natalie Peterson – She stated that she is aware of a group coming from the VFW Legion and would be attending the meeting. Accommodations to be made for public discussion when they arrive.

4. CONTINUING BUSINESS

4a. Stebner Park Update

John Mulder – John stated that with regard to moving the gate to the back, the City Council indicated nothing will be done with the gate at this time, but that the fence would be opened a bit for pedestrian traffic.

4b. Rose Road Softball Update.

Eric Johnson – Eric stated that regarding the 2016 engineer's estimate for two softballs fields, there are approximately 20,000 square feet of wetland that need to be addressed. Eric presented two options to the Board. Option 1 is to keep the current two fields, but fill in the wetland area completely and build a new field. The second option would be to keep the two existing fields, but move the placement of the new field to the southwest away from the wetland in order to minimize the wetland impacts.

4c. Park Master Plan Discussion.

Eric Johnson – Eric informed the Board about the City owned 40 acres, referred to as a possible site for the Art Olson Park. This park would consist of softball, little league, and t-ball fields. In addition, there would also be a playground, locker rooms, concession, batting cages, a lighted field and walking trails. The approximate cost for this project is \$8 million which would include roadway improvement to Lindahl and possibly Hagberg Roads.

John Mulder – According to John, the Art Olson Park would be located off the beaten path, even with building new roads to access the park.

Natalie Peterson – Natalie asked what the timeframe would be for any of the anticipated projects.

John Mulder – According to John, he believes that the timeframe would be at least five (5) years.

Eric Johnson – Eric then present a concept for updated Fichtner Fields. The proposed plan shows the reconfiguration of the four fields to create a cloverleaf configuration. This design would allow for a central pavilion/concession area which could serve all four fields. The plan also showed the relocation of the basketball court and skate part as well as reconfiguring the two parking lots in order to keep them located at the perimeter of the property. The parking lots would have a system of sidewalks connecting them to the fields and other park amenities. The potential cost of this park redesign would be approximately \$3 million dollars.

Eric Johnson – Eric also presented a possible extension of the Munger Spur Trail to Stebner Park where picnic tables would be installed and trees planted. The City is expecting grant money from the Minnesota DNR for the trees that will be planted.

John Mulder – John believes there would be a real possibility that the City could get community development block grant money if the trail provided handicap accessibility.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5a. Fall Tour/Maintenance Report.

John Mulder – John provided the Board a maintenance report that listed items that still need to be addressed and some that require longer term vision of the direction. There are also a number of items that require some fact to face discussion with the user groups to determine fair and reasonable expectations.

5b. Discussion with School and Little League RE: Fichtner Field Maintenance.

John Mulder – John delivered to the Board an updated Park Maintenance Procedures booklet which defines field maintenance responsibilities of each user groups.

5c. Youth Baseball User Agreement.

John Mulder – John handed the Board an email regarding the VFW/American Legion baseball group separating with the Hermantown Little League. The VFW/American Legion group is asking to have field 1, with Little League having fields 2, 3 and 4.

Motion made by Mike Miller to approve a separate user agreement for the VFW/American Legion. Seconded by Jim Sonneson. Motion carried.

The Board agreed to table the amending of the User Agreement of Little League until Jan. 2017.

5d. Keene Creek Park Encroachment.

Eric Johnson – Eric presented to the Board an instance of private use on City property. An aerial photograph and survey confirmed that the adjoining property owner has been encroaching on property on Keene Creek Park.

John Mulder – John indicated that a parcel swap could be done in order to rectify the situation.

Motion made by Gene Shaw to forward the land swap matter to the City Council. Seconded by Jim Sonneson. Motion carried.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Tom Eng – None.

Michael Miller – None.

Gene Shaw – Tennis courts look good.

Jim Sonneson – Thanks for fields maintenance work.

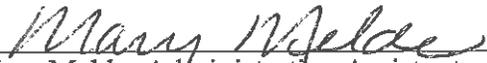
Natalie Peterson – None.

8. ADJOURN

Motion made by Gene Shaw to adjourn the meeting and cancel the December 20, 2016 meeting. Seconded by Mike Miller. Meeting adjourned at 5:48 PM.

Officiated by:

Transcribed by:


Mary Melde, Administrative Assistant