

CITY OF HERMANTOWN
PARK BOARD
August 16, 2016 Meeting Summary
4:30 PM

1. ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: John Mulder, City Administrator; Eric Johnson, Community Development Director; and Bert Ewer.

2. MINUTES

Motion made by Tom Eng to approve the July 19, 2016 regular meeting minutes. Seconded by Jim Sonneson. Motion carried.

3. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

None.

4. CONTINUING BUSINESS

None.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5A. 2017 Proposed Budget.

John Mulder, City Administrator handed out the 2017 Proposed Budget. John made reference to the General Fund – Parks and that there are four items that he would like to see continued next year.

1. Continued maintenance and increase the curb appeal;
2. Continuing to partner with youth groups and clarify roles;
3. Increasing accessibility & usability by the general public; and
4. Implementation of the Park Master Plan.

John indicated that as the 2017 budget stands right now, it is slightly under (2% less) what it was last year. He stated that the City is allocating more part-time people for the parks.

He also stated that over the past 4-5 years, the City has tried to increase the maintenance budget each year. It was \$10,000. It is now approximately \$27,000. He estimates that over half of that amount has been used up to this point for 2016. He stated that in 2015, an additional \$23,000 was used to purchase some playground equipment.

Jim Sonneson – He indicated that he has an estimate he has received from Ted Kiefat regarding the replacement cost for the scoreboard at Fichtner Field is \$3,250.

John's recommendation is seeking approval of, or the making of any amendments to the 2017 Proposed Budget.

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There was much discussion by the Park Board regarding the Park Budget for 2017. According to Mulder, monies from the City's Park Dedication Fund are used for park improvements; land acquisition; and development. The Park Dedication Fund had an approximate value of \$299,000.00 at the end of 2015.

Jordan Urshan – Using the scoreboards as an example, he stated that if the Park Board put the scoreboards up, that could be seen as good will toward the schools as well as an investment in the fields.

Tom Eng – He believes that if the Park Board has extra money, they could take it out of the current budget and replace one scoreboard this year (the fall of 2016), and replace another the year after (spring of 2017).

Urshan – He stated that he wished the Little League would present this to the Park Board. He believes the Park Board should look into the matter to gather additional details and information of what it entails before a motion is made for adding it to the budget. He agrees with Tom Eng's idea of spreading it out. He also asked if the Park Board could have conversations with the high school and Little League to address the cost sharing of this project and at the Park Board's September meeting, they could make a motion on whether or not to include it in the budget.

Mulder – He stated that yes, you can have the conversation, but noted that it would be hard to put it back into the budget because by the next Park Board meeting, the City Council is going to have to set their preliminary budget and tax levy.

Natalie Peterson – She asked if anyone has taken a look at the scoreboard to see if it is fixable rather than replacing it.

Mulder – He suggested that he would have someone investigate it and see what can be done to get it fixed, and/or replaced in 2016. He also stated that if the consensus is the Board adds \$3,250 into next year's budget for Rose Road, then that would resolve it.

Urshan – He suggested that this matter be tabled for today in order to gather more information.

Mulder – He added that regarding Park Dedication, they are looking at trying to determine a better estimate on an additional field for girls' softball, and will present those to the Board at the September meeting. He said they are also looking at some potential trails.

Motion made by Jim Sonneson to add a scoreboard expense of \$3,500 to the budget for 2017. Seconded by Mike Miller. Motion carried.

Motion made by Gene Shaw to approve the overall budget as amended for 2017. Seconded by Tom Eng. Motion carried.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- 6A. Communication 16-178 from Ross Bjorlin to Mayor Wayne Boucher regarding Stebner Park.

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Mulder – He stated that he wanted to make the Park Board aware of this communication and that there have been several follow-up emails regarding the matter. The City Council has tabled the matter until November 7, 2016, and has asked that we have continued discussions with the Soccer Association and include some council members in those discussions. He stated that the City's interests are in opening up those fields and making them more inviting to the general public. The Soccer Association feels that doing that will create more use on the fields and damage them.

According to Mulder, there is nothing in the Development Agreements or User Agreements that would prevent the City from opening up those fields to the general public. He also stated that there is the notion of wanting to have good will with all the user groups and work out a plan that everyone could agree with. The Council wants the Park Board to have continued discussions with the Soccer Association to see whatever alternatives can be reached.

6B. Hermantown School

Mulder presented a letter from the Hermantown Superintendent regarding repair of the tennis court and request for the City to partner with Hermantown Community Schools in paying for half of the cost.

He stated that when we talk about user groups, the School Board would like the City to change the User Agreement so they don't have to pay the \$5,000 plus maintenance fees, for a total of approximately \$9,000. He suggests that it would be helpful if one of the Park Board members would meet with the School Board to talk about that partnership and the User Agreement. His feeling is that the School Board wants to be at the same level with the other user groups in terms of having to pay for fields. In the meantime, they also want the City to pay a portion of the improvements to school property that is open to the public like a park.

6C. Press Release

Mulder reported that a press release has been submitted to the Hermantown Star for publication regarding the Munger Trail Spur between the City of Hermantown and the City of Proctor. The Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission Announces Designated Regionally Significant Parks and Trails for 2016. Because of this recognition, the City of Hermantown is now eligible for funding. The grant application deadline is September 2, 2016.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

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| Tom Eng – | Submitted written ideas to the Park by Hermantown 2 nd graders about what they would like to see in the City's Parks. |
| Michael Miller – | None. |
| Gene Shaw – | None. |
| Jim Sonneson – | He walked around the skateboard park and noticed that missing pieces from the surface on the downslopes. |
| Jordan Urshan – | None. |
| Natalie Peterson – | None. |

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8. ADJOURN

Motion made by Tom Eng to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Gene Shaw. Meeting adjourned at 5:28 PM.

Officiated by:

Transcribed by:

Jordan Urshan, Chair



Mary Melde, Administrative Assistant