

MINUTES PARK & TREE BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 2, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Matt Dickhausen at 12:00 p.m. Members present were Kay McDaniel, John Wimmer, and Neil Herzberg. Nancy Ellis, Christy Schlangen, and Len Gilmore were absent. Advisory Members present were Ron Mergen, Public Works Director; Renee Eckerly, City Administrator; and Lee Schleper. Also present was Evan Dolly.

Motion was made by Herzberg to approve the minutes of the April 3 and July 10, 2014 Special Park & Tree Board meetings. Seconded by Wimmer and unanimously carried.

DISC GOLF

Board Members discussed the disc golf concept and how it would fit into the City's park system. It was stated that the City doesn't really have the terrain needed for this type of activity. It was suggested to forward this to the Regional Park as they have the woods and hilly area that would be ideal for disc golf.

SKATE PARK

Evan Dolly was in attendance representing the group that signed the petition to install a skate park. Dolly stated the need for a skate park as persons do get asked to leave some of the areas that they skate in. Dolly also stated they need an area for bikes, scooters, inline skates, skate boards, etc. Members suggested to Dolly that he research an ideal park and put a concept plan together with acreage needed; identify each attraction, and present estimated costs. The Board would then review it at the January meeting.

VETERANS PARK RESERVATION POLICY

The current policy was reviewed and discussed.

Motion was made by Herzberg to change the cancellation policy to refund the damage deposit in cases where the cancellation is less than 3 months' notice and recommend such to the City Council. Seconded by Dickhausen and unanimously carried.

AMPE PARK

It was reported that the soccer field grass has matured extremely well, the sprinkler system has been installed, and the soccer club has been operating the system. It was discussed to possibly go back to the soccer group and ask for the donation which they had committed to. In conclusion, it was suggested to ask the soccer club to provide some in-kind services to take care of the park or mow it.

GAZEBO PARK

The park usage was discussed noting it has greatly increased over the years since the sprinkler system and splash pad have been installed. This year started with very strong usage, but then became very weather dependent. The phase two splash pad was discussed. Mergen commented that the Public Works Department does not have the man power to take on any more projects and the Board needs to step back for a year. Members discussed the approved sidewalk; since it has not yet been installed the Board should wait until phase two is installed. Members also discussed what could be done to make the gazebo more attractive or user friendly.

Motion was made by Dickhausen to not install the sidewalk at the Gazebo Park at this time. Seconded by McDaniel and unanimously carried.

DOG PARK

Members noted that the current retention basin is being utilized as a dog park. It was suggested to move the fence to create a more level area. The fence rehab would cost \$3,000.00. Eckerly suggested that she would send a letter out to all the licensed dog owners and see if they would be willing to organize to take on the project.

VETERANS PARK

It was reported that the boat landing dock is due for a major rehab or replacement. A layout was presented to the Board noting it will be presented to the Sportsmen's Club asking the Club to fund the new dock. A letter from the County and SWCD was presented as they are conducting surveys looking for potential projects for shoreline restoration, native plantings, filter strips, etc. Members discussed this and noted at this time Paynesville would not participate and if the City did, the City's engineering firm would be used.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.