

**PEQUOT LAKES PARK COMMISSION
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2015
CITY HALL**

Members Present: Chair Malecha, Commissioners Bruch, Nagel, Ettesvold, Nordby, Ronning and Caouette

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Mike Loven, Public Works Supervisor; Dave Lind and Mark Jurchen, Sibley Lake Association; Council Member Karr and Dawn Bittner, Zoning Administrator/Administrative Specialist

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Malecha called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Consider Agenda

COMMISSIONER NAGEL MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. COMMISSIONER RONNING SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

3. Park Commission Minutes

COMMISSIONER RONNING MOVED TO APPROVE THE JULY 9, 2015, PARK COMMISSION MINUTES AS READ. COMMISSIONER CAOUCETTE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

4. Sibley Lake Park

Steps Plan

Mark Jurchen explained the Sibley Lake Association had partnered with the City to apply for a grant up to \$25,000. The City could not apply for the grant. The lake association will also donate time. Dave Lind stated the Boy Scouts are willing to help; this is a good project for them.

Mike Loven explained the estimates. No shrubbery is included as he suggested waiting a year before planting to be sure there is no erosion.

Mark Jurchen will have Mike Loven look over the grant application to ensure it is accurate prior to submitting. The SWCD plans to begin looking at the applications in January. Mr. Jurchen will contact Staff to place this on an upcoming agenda once the lake association is notified of the grant amount.

Lights in the Park

Mike Loven asked if anyone has looked at the lighting after dark. Mr. Babinski has not completed the work on their parking lot. Park rules state no one is allowed in the park after dark.

Mark Jurchen stated the fishing pier is weathering well.

5. GRANT – Crow Wing Energized

Bittner stated the City would receive 2 or 3 bike racks from Crow Wing Energized and provided the Commission with a picture of the bike racks. The Commission suggested the location for the bike racks should be at Trailside Park by the playground on the parking lot side.

6. Trailside Park

Parking Area Update

Mike Loven stated he plans to spread top soil and seed next week by the playground. Funds from the State as part of the turnbacks will be received in December and he will ask the Council to use a portion to place curb and gutter along East Sibley Street to keep traffic and parking away from the playground. Pedestrian areas should be posted “No Bikes”. Mr. Loven also plans to place concrete pads under the picnic tables and to place more of the Bobber bike racks.

This will be revisited at a later date.

Bathroom Update

The two bids received were rejected by the Council. Something more modest would be better. The location may need to be reviewed.

7. Master Park Plan

Chair Malecha stated the estimate for the park plan for the expanded Trailside Park of \$14,000 was high. She asked if a committee could be formed to collect information this fall and winter. The Comprehensive Plan includes quite a bit of information on this park. Bittner reminded the Commission that \$5,000 is included in the Preliminary Budget for 2016.

Council Member Karr stated there have been discussions to vacate the current Highway 371 once the alternate alignment is constructed and expand Trailside Park. Some additions to the park could be a splash park, skating rink and wi fi. He stated the City needs to have someone prepare a professional plan so we

don't put things where they won't work in the future. The goal is to revitalize the downtown.

Commissioner Bruch stated he would not want to hamstring future park boards. Ideas change. He would rather not have such a plan.

Bittner explained how a master park plan works and used the West Sibley Street connectivity with Sibley Lake Park and Trailside Park as an example. Mark Jurchen stated that in order to access grant money, there needs to be plans in place. A master plan is a good idea no matter who puts it together.

Chair Malecha stated the City has so many talented people; a committee could be formed to collect the information and take it to a professional for a plan.

Council Member Karr stated the American Institute of Architects have members that volunteer to do projects each year. When asked, he stated there are 3 to 4 people on the Council that approve this park plan in principal.

COMMISSIONER RONNING MOVED TO RECOMMEND THE COUNCIL PROCEED WITH PHASE ONE OF THE MASTER PLAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,000. COMMISSIONER NAGEL SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 6 – 1. COMMISSIONER BRUCH OPPOSED.

Council Member Karr stated the Council interviewed for the new City Administrator and Mark Casey was offered the position. He has been the City Administrator for Chisholm and had stated Chisholm still a vibrant city after their bypass. Get the kids to the park and the parents will follow.

Mark Jurchen stated the City is building this park area for the people who live here year round, not for the tourists.

8. Gildner Park Book Stand
It was determined that additional information needs to be collected on this book stand. Bittner will provide additional information at an upcoming meeting.

9. Other Business

Jack Schmidt had telephoned City Hall to thank whoever put up the sign in the Park to not climb on the Veterans Memorial.

Bittner asked who would like to receive a printed meeting packet. Commissioner Caouette requested a printed copy.

Commissioner Nordby asked if picnic tables or benches could be placed where the 45 degree fence is. Mike Loven stated the grass needs to be established first.

COMMISSIONER NORDBY MOVED TO PLACE A PICNIC TABLE IN THE AREA OF THE 45 DEGREE FENCE IN TRAILSIDE PARK. COMMISSIONER NAGEL SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 7 – 0.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, **COMISSIONER BRUCH MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMISSIONER RONNING SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Bittner
Zoning Administrator/Administrative Specialist