

**PEQUOT LAKES PARK COMMISSION
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020
TRAILSIDE PARK**

Members Present: Chair Ronning and Commissioners Boucher, Churack, Johnson, Melby and Schweinler.

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Dawn Bittner, Zoning Specialist; and Dalton Engholm, Public Works Maintenance Worker.

1. Call Meeting to Order

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

2. Consider Agenda

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER SCHWEINLER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

3. Park Commission Minutes

COMMISSIONER SCHWEINLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 13, 2020, PARK COMMISSION MINUTES AS READ. COMMISSIONER CHURACK SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

4. Trailside Park Holiday Decorations

Dalton Engholm, Maintenance Worker for the Public Works Department, explained the preliminary decorating plan for Trailside Park. He explained the additional trees to be decorated into cone shapes with lights, new locations for some of the 3-D decorations created by the art students, and that decorating the chokecherry trees along Government Drive is not feasible. Several extension cords would be needed, snowmobiles could damage cords, and the chokecherry trees may not withstand the weight of the lights when combined with ice and snow. Snow from Government Drive is pushed into that area and could also damage the cords.

It was the consensus of the Commission that lighting of the north half of Trailside Park be coordinated with the Chamber. Bittner was directed to contact Katie at the Chamber.

5. Art in the Park

Bittner reported Todd Knutson removed the picture that was not painted by a student August 31.

Discussion ensued how to ensure waivers for new art are completed and returned to the City. Commissioner Churack volunteered to annually inventory the pictures and confirm the pictures are appropriate and waivers are completed and are on file at City Hall.

6. Lighting of Betsy Ross Flag

Bittner explained the City had received a couple of complaints that the Betsy Ross Flag was not lit. After researching the issue, it was determined that this flag should be treated the same as the American Flag. The Betsy Ross Flag was part of the original request from the donor. The cost for a taller flag pole is \$2,000, plus installation. The asphalt and cement base would need to be removed and replaced. Discussion ensued regarding lighting of the flag and it was the consensus lighting it should be the first step. If necessary, the pole can be replaced at a later date.

It was the consensus of the Park Commission to inform the City Council that the City received 2 complaints, the Park Commission wasn't aware the Betsy Ross Flag needed to be treated like the American Flag, and that the Park Commission is having the flag lit.

7. Bean Hole Fence Art

Chair Ronning contacted the School regarding students providing art for the fence, as well as the Pickleball Court, and was told at this point with the unknowns regarding COVID-19 and student attendance, the School is not interested in providing art for the fence or proceeding with a Pickleball Court.

Bittner stated someone should contact Katie at the Chamber and work with the Bean Hole Committee to see if they have any ideas for decorations. Chair Ronning volunteered to contact the Chamber.

Commissioner Johnson stated the owner of Faith Boost had contacted Jason Gorr, Public Works Director, regarding providing art for the fence.

Commissioner Boucher suggested staining the fence in the spring. If a section needs to be replaced in the future, the stain will match the new section. If allowed to gray, a new section would not match.

8. City Park Evaluations

Gildner Park:

- Commissioner Schweinler inquired about the book stand. Members explained it is free to anyone; bring one, take one.
- Nice little park; neighbor states it gets a lot of use;
- Benches on table are warping and loose;
- Why are dogs not allowed? Might be proximity to Dog Park;
- A lot of branches, debris and pine cones on the ground; it is the nature of the types of trees; more of a rustic park setting; needles are a natural mulch to keep the grass and weeds down; may need to be cleaned up more often;
- Broken swing has been repaired.

Sibley Park:

- A lot of branches, debris and pine cones on the ground; it is the nature of the types of trees; more of a rustic park setting; needles are a natural mulch to keep the grass and weeds down; may need to be cleaned up more often;
- Picnic shelter should be blown out after mowing;
- Parking area full of debris;
- Hasp on electrical box is bent and may need to be replaced;
- Restrooms appeared to be in good shape and stocked with supplies;
- Needs signage promoting fishing pier;
- Steps need to be repaired.

Bobber Park:

- Four nice apple trees;
- Small trees need trimming;
- Park looks very nice and the lawn is very well maintained;
- Chair needs to be replaced or repaired (on CIP); the original builder has been contacted and would like to provide a quote.

Dog Park:

- Very heavily used; patrons doing nice job of cleaning up after pets;
- One silhouette is missing;
- New benches are very nice;
- Dogs have dug huge holes under benches; Bittner advised plans to pour concrete underneath;
- Hose accessible to fill pool;
- Signage good.

Trailside North Park:

- Nice neighborhood park.

Trailside Park:

- Finish landscaping around Bean Hole Fence;
- Broken light in garden under Community Sign;
- Hostas should be replaced with sun plants; Hostas need shade;
- Grass/weeds around flag pole bases needs to be killed;
- Benches at bump-outs making holes in asphalt;
- Dru's Garden looks very nice;
- Our Savior's Garden looks nice;
- The other garden could use some TLC;
- Bike Repair Station looks good;
- Sign at Dru's Garden refers to donations, but where can donations be sent;
- Picnic Shelter wet from sprinklers; sprinklers may need to be adjusted;
- Brown or tan mulch won't show the dead weeds; 2019 discussed not using red any longer;
- Grass boulevards between street and flags needs attention;
- Picnic tables look nice; Faith Boost tattooed some and the City refurbished some and built new.

Mayo Park:

- Peaceful park;
- Horse and no motor vehicle signs up;
- Could use another garbage can next to parking area;
- Tree hanging over path to lake; needs to be removed;
- Info Box empty.

9. Park Commission Vacancy

Bittner noted the City received an application for the Park Commission. Chair Ronning will contact her for an interview.

10. Other Business

Commissioner Schweinler stated one of the silhouettes is missing at the Dog Park. She will check with Craig at NC2 Metalwerx to see if he removed it for repair. Bittner will check with the Public Works Department to see if they removed it.

Commissioner Schweinler contacted Craig at NC2 Metalwerx and reported the silhouettes have been cut, brackets constructed, and plan to be installed by end of September.

11. Next Meeting

Bittner stated discussions will begin at the October meeting for the splash pad and bathroom. Park Dedication Funds will be used to construct the bathroom. Discussion ensued regarding earlier designs for a bathroom. It was suggested we contact Jeff Corniea to see what size bathroom is needed or what other cities have done around their splash pads. It was the consensus of the Park Commission to wait until at least November to begin these discussions.

Discussions regarding decorating the Santa's Bobbin into Town float will begin in October.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, **COMMISSIONER CHURACK MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER MELBY SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Bittner
Zoning Specialist