

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

9:00 A.M.

Wednesday, June 7, 2023

Present: Steve VanHouse
Tracy Tiboni
Shane Hoff
Jenny Bjerken
Gene LaFond

Excused: Nathan Stadler
Dick Stern

Bryan Carpenter, Parks and Recreation Department
David Drown, City Planner
Randall Walz, Silver Bay Veterans Home
Faron Meeks
Nelson French

VanHouse called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda – Motion by Tiboni, second LaFond to approve the Agenda. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes – Motion by Bjerken, second LaFond to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2023 regular meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMUNICATIONS – None at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Arena Update – Summer programs are underway, the building superintendent from Lake County completed inspections, has put bids in to replace wood, would like to replace more doors, fix the roof, and make improvements to the front and back of arena. Refrigeration company will be replacing valves and doing inspections.

Marina Update – Marina is open and things are going well. Carpenter has contacted city's current ice distributor to provide a cooler and ice to the marina. The Yacht Club has an ice machine that provides ice to their members, Carpenter will meet with them to discuss their ice cooler and City's plans. There was discussion regarding providing ice to slip holders versus selling to them. Marina managers are working with State and City to open a commercial space, boaters will use the building more and appreciate having supplies for purchase. Consensus of board is full support of new commercial space.

Black Beach Campground Update – Campground is very busy for the summer season; firewood sales are up as well. The Campground Host position remains unfilled so staff is staggering their schedule to provide coverage until host is hired. Discussion regarding advertising and requirements of host. Nothing new to report on new road project, staff has been watering roads to keep dust down and plan to put chloride down soon.

Summer Programs- Softball and baseball programs have started with 109 participants, T-ball has 25 participants and other programs will start soon. Summer staff has been hired. There was discussion regarding upgrading equipment using a grant from Cliffs Foundation, reorganizing rec ball programs to create an association or continue to run the ball program thru the Rec

department, holding a parent meeting to determine the level of commitment/needs, and costs of programs.

Outdoor Rink Project- The old boards have been removed and clean up started. Slab might be poured in July but contractor needs clarification on a few requirements to begin. Funding is being received, but waiting on some of the bigger grants that have been applied for. If grants do not come thru there is a backup plan to cover expenses.

NEW BUSINESS-

RV Sewer Dump Relocation- David Drown provided information regarding the proposed J&H Auto expansion which would require relocating, at the business expense, the RV Sewer Dump to the campground. Carpenter will work with the Water Department to determine the best location for RV Sewer Dump.

Dog Park- David Drown was contacted by a local dog park group to discuss possible locations for a dog park within the city. The caretaking would potentially fall under the Parks and Rec department. Discussion followed regarding the many current and upcoming projects within the department, lack of time, and staff. Carpenter is not opposed but with added projects the department may need to be restructured and more staff hired. Consensus of board is to maintain current and upcoming projects and to review the Five-Year Plan to see if dog park can be included for a future date.

Central Park & Downtown Planning- David Drown presented a map of proposed extension plans of Gitche-Gami trail system that involves the city. During the MN Design Team visit most residents wanted the trail to be near downtown but not thru center. Discussion followed regarding trails going thru neighborhoods, funding, and central park area.

Vets Home Youth Ball Field- Faron Meeks and Randall Walz, Silver Bay MN Veterans Home are in the early stages of planning a miniature ball stadium by the Vets Home, which would also serve as a veteran's memorial that the Vets home would like to have. There is interest and funding available from the State but many details still need to be worked out. Carpenter and the board support the idea but would like more details. Meeks will bring updated plans to board when he has them.

Motion by Tiboni, second Bjerken to adjourn at 10:15 a.m. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes taken by Lisa Christenson