

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

9:00 A.M.

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

Present: Steve VanHouse
Jenny Bjerken
Nathan Stadler
Dick Stern

Excused: Tracy Tiboni
Shane Hoff
Gene LaFond

Lana Fralich, City Administrator
Bryan Carpenter, Parks & Rec Director
Joe Rhein, Bolton & Menk via ZOOM
Josh Stier, Bolton & Menk via ZOOM
Erik Wedge, DSGW via ZOOM
Vicki Noe, DSGW via ZOOM
Pete Auvinen, Kraus- Anderson, left at 9:35 a.m.
Joe Muzljakovich, Kraus- Anderson, left at 9:35 a.m.
Erica Jensen- 10:20 a.m.
Jim FitzGerald – 10:15 a.m.

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

Agenda – Motion by Stadler, second Bjerken to approve the Agenda as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Minutes – Motion by Stadler, second Stern to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2025 regular meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

COMMUNICATIONS –

Public Comments- None at this time.

Multi-Modal Trailhead Center- Pete Auvinen and Joe Muzljakovich of Kraus-Anderson, who are the CMAR on the project, presented the multi-modal trailhead center project update. Project budget was higher than expected at over \$8M, board reviewed changes made to building and grounds to reduce expenses while maintaining needs and to stay within the budget. Discussion regarding secured funding of just under \$5.4 million with \$400,000 pending from DNR due to their error, site development expenses of \$2.3 million, building expenses of \$1.8 million, and indirect owner expense of \$1.3 million. Further discussion regarding timeline, project scope to meet various funding requirements, additional cuts if needed, bidding items as alternates, the need to get through final design to bid in April, and having contract in place by June 30, 2025 per funding requirement. Motion by Stern, second Bjerken to recommend Council approve Kraus-Anderson moving forward with final design for the project. **MOTION CARRIED.**

OLD BUSINESS

Arena Update – Hockey season is winding down with one more tournament left of season. Ice removal scheduled for March 13th. Discussion regarding city expenses versus revenue for tournaments, staffing issues relating to concession stand, and ways to improve participation.

Black Beach Campground-

Winter Camping- Carpenter will continue to gather information to present at a future meeting.

Campground Host- Carpenter has an interested person to host first half of season, will need to advertise for remainder of season.

Discussion followed regarding garbage and parking problems at Black Beach. East Lakeview Drive project is complete and next phase will be trails and additional parking. Further discussion regarding possibility of campground expansion.

Senior Workshop/Senior Workshop Surplus Items- Updated MOU submitted to school board for approval and then to Council. Orientation tentatively scheduled end of March. Letter will be sent to current woodshop members regarding removing their wood and equipment by end of March in preparation for demolition. List of surplus items was reviewed. Surplus items will first go to new workshop at school, other city departments, bidding, and then disposal. Discussion regarding letting public know what items are out for bid via website and notice in paper.

5-Year Plan Review- Consensus of board to set special workshop at 8:00 a.m. prior to April 9th meeting to discuss Five Year plan.

Summer Hires- Carpenter is working with the HR department to update and post summer positions for advertisement.

Summer Programs- Summer programs will remain similar to past years. Carpenter will reach out to Two Harbors and Grand Marais to create a combined softball program.

Rec Football- Nine man football has been reinstated at the high school, discussion regarding continuing feeder football programs for the younger youth.

NEW BUSINESS –

Gitchi-Gami Bike Trail- Funding has been received to work on the design of the Gitchi-Gami bike trail extension, connecting Silver Bay to Tettegouche State Park. Representatives for the Gitchi-Gami bike trail will be attending the April 9th meeting to obtain input regarding trail connectivity. A preliminary map was reviewed with discussion regarding private property owners and accessibility grade requirements.

Motion by Bjerken, second Stadler to adjourn at 10:32 a.m. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes taken by Lisa Christenson