

Park Board Meeting Minutes
Jackson City Hall
4/9/2024
5:30 p.m.

Attendees:

- Attendees: Michael Haeffner, Matt Skaret, Luke Ewald, Lynne Anderson, Neal Carlson, Tony Oxborough, Mike Eddy.
- Absent: Mike Gilbert, Mike Gruhlke, Joe Pell (City Council Representative).
- Guests: John Weland, Robert Grunewald, Kim Benes.

Jackson Healthcare Grant Update:

- We received \$5,000 from the Jackson Healthcare Foundation to go towards the new Ashley Park sand Volleyball equipment; the County received \$6,228 to go toward the all-season trail groomer- we will need to purchase items before 6/30/2024.
- The volleyball court will be worked on summer 2024.
- The lighting at Albertus Fields can now be worked on thanks to the Healthcare Foundation providing additional funding; the Healthcare Foundation will be meeting on 4/10/2024 to allocate some of it to the lighting project.

Other Grant Funding Opportunities:

- [Remick Grant](#)- due 4/10/2024.
- [Odell Wind Farm Grant](#)- due July 2024.
- [Apex/Big Bend](#)- due anytime, rolling deadline.
- [Bank Midwest Community Fund](#)- due late May 2024
- From Neal- suggested that we apply for the Odell Wind Farm Grant to look at an outdoor fitness equipment to be located along the trails or by the old ice skating skate location; Neal will look to see if the cement slab will be able to help support the weight of the equipment.

National Park Service Application- Requested Updates:

- The application was due 3/1/2024; the application focuses on popular parks in Jackson and the Memorial Park project from 2018.
- The Midwest team comprising the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program of the National Park Service has completed our initial assessment and review of your project. They appreciate the thorough application you have made and the time and resources that went into it. The National Park Service staff have some follow-up questions that we would appreciate some answers to as we work to complete our project review. According to an email received from them, The questions we have are below. If you are able, please respond with your replies by 9am, Monday, April 8.

- We understand that the City of Jackson is going through staffing changes; the City Administrator (the applicant) is leaving their position in several months and a new Economic Development Coordinator is being hired. The city staff member who would be present during a year of NPS assistance appears to be the Public Works Director and Parks Coordinator. What is the commitment from the City of Jackson to this project from a staffing standpoint? What is the awareness and support level of the Jackson City Council to this project?
- Is the expectation from the City of Jackson that the National Park Service leads this project with the city assisting? Or does the city of Jackson intend to lead this effort with planning assistance being drawn from the NPS?
- What is meeting frequency of your project planning team expected to be for the coming year? As-needed, monthly, every three weeks, every other week?
- What is the size of your core planning team? Besides NPS, are there other parties that you intend to recruit as active core team participants in the coming year?
- After discussion, it was determined that Neal and Luke have the capacity to take on this project; Tony will provide assistance when possible; the goal will be to see if the new City Administrator is interested to participate in meetings to help with this project as well.

Community Garden Season:

- Garden Shed: John requested a shed for the community garden; the shed would be estimated to be 6ft by 3ft.
- Garden Tools: we will request a bundle of tools for individuals to borrow.
- Local public health can help cover the expenses which are estimated to be around \$600-\$1,000 depending on what the garden committee decides to purchase with consultation with the Park Board.

Veterans Memorial Update:

- Matt shared there hasn't been any updates lately; the goal was to hear back before April 2024, but nothing has heard anything.

Petersburg Road Vacancy:

- Matt shared the City of Jackson is looking at vacating Petersburg Road, located near Svoboda's property; the purpose is for the City to reroute a sewer line to create a gravity sewer system.
- Tony visited with Svoboda's earlier today, 4/9/2024, to notify them they must move the tractors to allow for fishing- no longer can kick individuals out of the area who are fishing.
- Robert and Kim shared concerns pertaining to vacating the road, including- likely not being able to get that land back in the future, giving up access to public fishing area, the fact that area is intended for residential development, developing a potential bridge that crosses Nelson Creek to Benes Park (i.e. a suspension), and simply purchasing the easement to allow for the project.
- Matt shared that the council would need to vote- at least 4/5 vote to approve it as step one, have a public meeting, notify the DNR regarding the purpose of the vacancy,

- Lynne shared the trails committee specified during the 4/9/2024 meeting the committee is not in favor of vacating Petersburg Road.
- It was determined that the next steps will have to go to City Council.

Tony/Neal Report:

- Tony shared an update on:
 - Neal would like to put a garbage can in Benes Park and a Porta-Potty.
 - Dann's Island Park will likely be getting a Porta-Potty.
 - The Albertus Field dugout benches are almost ready to go.
 - There are three teams interested to come and play softball.
 - The lighting estimate for Albertus Fields- both fields- is \$26,000-\$60,000 depending on the tier of lighting; the more expensive the lighting, the better quality; this does not include the installation and wiring; the Healthcare Foundation will be visiting to discuss how much they can allocate to the project; more updates will be discussed at the May 2024 meeting.
 - Neal would like to see little league baseball, concessions, etc.
 - The lighting for Memorial Park is in the works; it is estimated to be \$5,000 project for the tree lighting; this will be for 37 trees.
 - The dog park toys are done and have been out over the past couple of weeks.
 - The kids castle has been completed and is out in Sunset Park.

Next Meetings:

- 5/14/2024 at 530 pm at Jackson City Hall.

Adjourn:

- Meeting adjourn at 650pm.