

Park Board Meeting Minutes

Jackson City Hall
5/14/2024
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.

Petersburg Road Vacancy- Bob Grunewald:

- Robert shared in a 5/9/2024 email that he is requesting the City of Jackson Park Board authorize the installation of "Public Access" signs on Petersburg Drive and Highway 71. This public access needs to be clearly indicated to allow everyone access to the north shore of the Des Moines River. Public access on this public road has been denied in the past. It is important all the people have access to the north side of the river on Petersburg Drive. He has discussed this public access issue with the Park Board on 9/13/22 and on 7/11/23 (see the Park Board minutes from those meetings). I am raising this issue again with this request 5/8/24. He would like us to please authorize the installation of "Public Access" signs on Petersburg Drive and Highway 71.
- Robert came to the meeting on 5/14/2024 requesting signage; it was discussed and determined that it would not be feasible to have public water access signage posted at the entrance of Petersburg Drive due to limited parking availability; it was discussed folks could park their cars at Dann's Island and walk across US-71.
- Luke shared we should consider promoting our river access spots using way-finding signage due to the fact that over the past four years both recreation surveys we completed demonstrate a strong community interest to use our river system more often; the two current locations include Ashley Park and Memorial Park as launching locations.

River Access in Benes Park:

- It was agreed to have the new river access in Benes Park be located south of the ripples, this will serve as a longstanding need for EMS; the access will be large enough to allow boat access; if needed, we can communicate with Kim Benes for other locations.

Grant Funding Opportunities:

- [Odell Wind Farm Grant](#)- due July 2024.
- [Apex/Big Bend](#)- due anytime, rolling deadline.
- [Bank Midwest Community Fund](#)- due late May 2024
- Neal will be compiling a list of items needed for the parks and share out in the coming days.

National Park Service Application- Requested Updates:

- Luke shared we had a meeting with the NPS on 5/14/2024; the main reasons we did not receive the technical assistance- City staff turnover, uncertainty with who would be the core-team from the city level, and the number of other applicants; overall, we had a great application and can apply again next year.

Tony/Neal Report:

- Neal updates:
 - Seasonal help- park board made a recommendation to hire Andrew Boyum as new seasonal help; he can start the week of 5/20/2024.
 - Dandelions- the city will begin spraying.
 - Trash cans- it was recommended we purchase four more trash cans for the community gardens, the disc golf course, Albertus Fields, and having a spray can for another park.
 - The tree lighting project is wrapping, but with the weather and being short staff (no seasonal help) it has been challenging to complete.
 - The dog park has been very popular over the past month, there was a couple from Washington State who used it a few days ago.
 - The Community Garden season is going well, all beds have been claimed; it was proposed to pack additional gravel one foot away from the fence line to prevent grass from growing along the fence line and prevent weed-whipping damage.

Next Meetings:

- 6/13/2024 at 530 pm at Patterson Park.

Adjourn:

- Meeting adjourn at 609pm.