

**Jackson Park Board Meeting 5:30 p.m. @ City Hall
April 13th, 2021**

In attendance: Luke Ewald, Lynne Anderson, Matt Skaret, Michael Haefner., Phil Markman, Neal Carlson, Mike Gruhlke, Chris Vee.

Absent: Mike Gilbert

Online via Zoom: Jen Eicholz

Guests: Bill Swan

Agenda Items:

Bill Swan Update:

- Bill attended a Jackson Park Board meeting during 2020 to discuss rebooting a disc golf course in Jackson; the goal would be to create a league and host events; there were two identified locations with property owned by the Jackson EDA which is currently underutilized; the course would be around 4,500 feet; there is also interest by Park Board members to establish a dog park area as part of the disc golf course; Having a recreation portfolio in a small town is important to retain residents; disc golf is one recreation opportunity to attract and retain individuals;
- Dog Park: Bill is currently compiling a few plans for the course layout, and has also added in the designated area for a fenced dog area as well as an open dog-run area (unfenced) for hunting dog training, etc. The preliminary designs are based off of the dog parks he has visited lately in St. James, Lakefield, and 2 in the twin cities. They are all very similar in design and are basically as I described to you when we spoke on the phone last. The overall course design will offer ~1.25 miles of added hiking, disc-golf, and mountain biking trails as my vision would match that found in Fairmont, Okoboji, and many other parks across the country Bill visited to play. The course length is ~4,200 of fairways and brush removal would be minimal. Safety is our top priority and that has been taken into account throughout the design process. There are 2 tee pads that will utilize the existing walking path, and are designed to have maximum trail visibility well beyond where we would be using the path. This is exactly how Okoboji and Fairmont and other parks have designed their courses to mitigate hazard exposure. Bill is committed to helping with the design element, location, and intermingling with other proposed functions. Funding is not part of my commitment and never was. Fencing, aesthetics, etc, all fall under the guise of the city. Bill did not commit to installing the dog park and only volunteered my time and energy to further the promotion of the disc golf course.
- Disc golf: Bill is fully committed to design, course preparations (brush management, creating mower access points for the course, dead tree limb removal), and basket installations. We will gladly help with placement of tee pads (supplied by the city— Windom utilized sidewalk sections for this). The baskets were not properly stored or cared for when they ripped them out of the old course in Jackson. They have incurred

some damage and are not usable for any sanctioned events or leagues. This would also fall under the city budget and would be ~\$6000 for 18 baskets which have a 30 year warranty. It is a great, cheap community investment. Bill will integrate hiking/mountain biking trails into the course design to add further community benefits and be more inclusive of more members of the community. Bill's team will manage course maintenance (tree trimming, trash collection, etc.) on an ongoing basis. There are 2 small water crossings (less than 4' wide) and one crossing that would be about 10' at the highest possible water levels. Bill suggested we can copy crossing designs found at County and city parks (Fairmont has ~7 water crossings they have built and installed, Plum Creek- County Park by Walnut Grove, MN has another version of a water crossing on a disc golf course.).

- Materials needed: baskets (18 for \$7,500); tee pads (18 pads that are 5x10); water crossings (post
- Summary: Bill shared the City supplies fencing, aesthetics for Dog Park, and City supply baskets, tee pads, and machinery to place tee pads; there would be opportunities for the JCC School District to obtain disc golf course curriculum for students in Phy-ED; there are opportunities to establish off-road trails.
- Bill would like to get this project going so they can begin working out there sooner rather than later.
- Motion: motion made by Lynne, seconded by Mike Gruhlke, to move forward with disc golf course located behind MnWest.
- The next step will be getting the go ahead from the EDA who owns the land and the City Council. Bill Swan and Matt will attend the next EDA meeting on May 11th.

Story Stroll:

- The Jackson Library would like to have story stroll displays placed at Ashley Park; they are applying for a grant to cover the cost of the displays in Ashley
- Motion made by Luke, Seconded by Lynne, to approve having displays at Ashley Park.

Jackson County 4H Summer Day Camps:

- They would like to use the Shelter House during the summer months; there events would be during the weekdays; there is typically limited traffic during the weekday to use the shelter house.
- They would like to see if they can waive the fee to use the shelter house.
- Motion made by Chris, seconded by Neal to allow waiving the \$25 for the Shelter House.

Subdivision Trail:

- Phil gave a brief update that trail repair at the Sunset Pond area and other sections of the trail encompassing about 5.1 miles will be around \$28,000; the quote is through Borgen
- Motion made by Lynne, seconded by Chris, to go with Borgen quote for trail repair.

Park Repairs/Updates:

- Ashley Park Picnic Tables

- Repair Little Shelter House in Ashley Park
- New Shelter House
- Art Committee Mural Project

Thomas Hill Road-SRTS Implementation Grant:

- During the SRTS Implementation Plan meeting, Thomas Hill Road gap to Patterson Park was discussed; participants noted that a lot of kids walk on that road even where there's a sidewalk; the road has less traffic, which is probably one of the reasons; we need to identify if the sidewalk gap is public space—if so, this could be a request with the city, but if private, it might be difficult.
- According to the Jackson Active Living Plan, Thomas Hill Road serves as a residential collector; the road is narrow and has high traffic volume, making it unsafe to walk/bicycle; there are higher volumes of pedestrian traffic in this area due to Patterson Park. Patterson Park is a neighborhood park along Thomas Hill Road between 1st and 2nd Avenue. Filling in this sidewalk gap will provide a safe, continuous, off road walking route for residents to use to access Patterson Park and the trail and sidewalk network on and by Ashley Street.

Community Garden Plot Update:

- Luke shared an update that we are pretty much ready to go, but we are still waiting for award funding from the Jackson Healthcare Foundation; we were verbally notified we received funding but not provided anything beyond this announcement; Matt and Luke have checked with foundation members over the past month, but we haven't heard back yet.

Grant Updates:

- Matt shared the Park Board received funding for the Operation Round Up Grant for \$2,000; we need to notify FRE by 4/16/2021 if we wish to use funding for Zimmerli Park; the grant request was for purchasing timber interlocking borders for a containment area for play structures and fall protection area at Zimmerli Park, to enhance safety and make an ADA compliant park area; it was discussed about using other.
- Motion made by Lynne, seconded by Luke, to accept the FRE grant for \$2,000 to put Zimmerli Park with condition of requesting FRE to put funding toward other projects in Zimmerli Park.

Phil- Truck Updates:

- Phil shared an updated on getting one new park truck; there are three trucks that Phil identified as possible replacement options, each having similar features and characteristics; these park trucks are available for purchase through Zimmerman Truck Sales (Zimmerman, MN);
- Motion made by Lynne, seconded by Mike Gruhlke, to have Phil test drive these trucks in Zimmerman, MN.

Phil/Neal Report:

- Neal shared he has been reviewing each park in Jackson for any maintenance and up-keeping needs in March and April 2021 when the weather was comfortable.

- Phil shared there have been applications for seasonal park work; there are three seasonal workers who have previously worked seasonally for the city; one of the new seasonal workers is going to school for parks/recreation.

Animal Committee Request (agenda addition):

- The Jackson County Animal Protection Society is requesting to use Ashley Park for a fundraising event on May 15th, 2021; there will be two veterinarians that are willing to help JCAPS; Jen Anderson and Carmen (Cottonwood County Veterinary) would like to do the nail clipping fundraiser; they would be able to use a canopy if the shelter house isn't available;
- They could also use Patterson Park as an alternative location if the shelter house is being used in Ashley Park.
- They do not need to get approval for the event unless they are requesting to use the Ashley Park Shelter House and have the \$25 fee waived.

Next Meeting:

- May 11th, 2021

Adjournment:

- Motion made by Luke, Seconded by Lynne, to adjourn.