

Jackson Park Board Meeting

Jackson City Hall

6/8/2021

Attendees:

- Michael Haeffner, Matt Skaret, Neal Carlson, Lynne Anderson, Luke Ewald.
- Absent: Mike Gilbert, Mike Gruhlke, Jen Eicholz, Chris Vee, Phil Markman.
- Guests: Kathy Fransen (Jackson Center for the Arts) and Evelyn Schafer (DVHHS Public Health)

Kathy Fransen

- Kathy from Jackson Center of the Arts attended the Park Board requesting power outlet use for Art/Music in the Park on selected days during the Riverside Farmers Market; there will be live music, “Plane Art” aka watching artists work as they paint beginning at 5pm on the following dates: Thursday June 10, July 8, July 15, August 19, August 26, and September 9th, 2021.
- Kathy also requested three to four picnic tables to allow for folks to sit during the entertainment.
- Lynne suggested that other areas in Ashley Park would benefit from having picnic tables or permanent structure for parents/seniors to sit in the shade.
- Action Item: Neal will make sure three to four picnic tables are ready to go during these selected dates; Lynne will check with Dave DeJong from the Trails Committee regarding a Memorial Bench donation.

Community Gardens Fencing

- Currently, Zimmerli Park has three 10x15ft Garden Plots available to the public; these gardens are free of charge for the season; at this moment in time it is assumed all garden plots are occupied by residents—Luke and Matt will confirm occupancy.
- Evelyn Schaeffer, Des Moines Valley Health and Human Services Public Health Director, visited with the Park Board to discuss Community Gardens in Jackson.
- The overall goal Evelyn and Luke would like to see is promoting growth of the current community gardens, asking the City to request that users give something back to the garden program and/or community in terms of rental fees to maintain them and/or harvested food to donate to the food shelf, senior center, and other underserved populations; in order to make this a successful project, Evelyn and Luke believe looking at getting other stakeholders/decision makers and organizations involved in the project.
- DVHHS Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) receives money from the Minn. Dept. of Health annually to provide communities funding to help address policy, system, and environmental changes related to chronic disease and commercial tobacco use prevention; moving forward, we would like to help promote the continued use of SHIP dollars in the future.

- Luke sent an email to the Park Board prior to the meeting stating that Boekett must have given us a deal on lumber which came in at around \$584 and Bekels dirt was \$500. If this is the case, we have just a little under \$2,000 left to use by June 30th with grant funding from the Jackson Healthcare Foundation.
- Suggested Action Items to work on: Identify and work with identified organizations to help maintain and sustain the gardens—work with organizations that see healthy food access as part of their mission/vision (i.e. schools, healthcare settings, multi-unit housing), Work with Jackson Park Board to identify locations where more gardens could go—Nelson Creek, Memorial Park, etc. Keep garden necessities in mind—what will be necessary to get the gardens running appropriately (i.e. water supply, startup costs, equipment costs), begin building a wait list, develop a formal agreement with the city for gardens, identify potential.
- Community Garden Video Link: For those who have Amazon Prime, the name of the gardening video is called “A Garden Experience: Growing Organic” [here is the 28 minute video](#) worth watching. If you are able to watch the video, pay attention to the structure of the organization, who is in control, the community plot, the method by which they rent plots.

Dog Park Locations

- During the May 2021 Park Board meeting, the Jackson EDA hosted a Special Session to discuss the dog park and disc golf course; the EDA was in favor of having the disc golf course be placed behind Good Samaritan Society/Sanford Health; the dog park was not in approved due to concerns of dogs barking and waste.
- Action Item: Matt will be chatting with neighbors in the area where the disc golf course will be placed on 6/9/2021; he will seek input from them about having a dog park located in the same vicinity.

Ashley Park Shelter House

- Michael shared there is a hole in the medium size shelter house roof nearest the road (State Street); Matt will be checking with the Lions Club to help fix the roof; typically, the City of Jackson pays for the repairs.
- Matt shared there has been issues with individuals not cleaning up after themselves when using the large Ashley Park Shelter House; we will want to discuss at the next meeting to see if we should put a Cleaning Charge when someone rents the Shelter House.
- Action Item: Matt will reach out to the Lions regarding roof repair and we will plan to discuss establishing a Cleaning Charge/Fee when someone rents the Shelter House.

Phil/Neal Report

- Neal shared that seasonal park workers help paint the Bike Statue in Dann’s Island Park.
- Neal shared the Splash Pad opened on 6/1/2021; there are still some kinks to work—things seem to start out fine, but when it turns off at 10pm things go wrong which could be a software update issue.

- Matt shared the Splash Pad shade structure should arrive to Jackson by 6/15/2021.
- Lynne asked if the Central Park table will be removed and replaced with a regular picnic table; Neal will be working on getting the current table removed as soon as possible.

Next meeting:

- July 13th, 2021 at 530pm.