

**Jackson Park Board Meeting  
Jackson City Hall**

**4/12/2022**

**Attendees:**

- Attendees: Matt Skaret, Neal Carlson, Luke Ewald, Lynne Anderson, Michael Gruhkle, Phil Markman, Michael Haeffner.
- Absent: Jen Eicholz, Jerry Palmer, Michael Gilbert
- Guests: Cay Gjertson

**Jackson Farmers Market:**

- Cay from Art Center shared updates regarding the Jackson Farmers Market (Riverside Farmers and Makers Market); there will be live music and entertainment similar to last year; on 9/15/2022 they will be hosting a Latino band (Ulma and Deana) out of Minneapolis, Salsa Tasting Contests and Salsa dancing.
- Cay would like to have access to the shelter house this year; the farmers market season starts last Thursday of May and goes to 9/15/2022; shelter house usage would like to be used from 2pm-7pm; market vendors are required to have liability insurance (\$300,000), safe food handling training for all vendors.
- Motion: motion made by Lynne, seconded by Mike Gruhkle, to allow the Riverside Farmers and Makers Market to use the Ashley Park Shelter House.

**Kayak Launch:**

- History: We were awarded \$10,000 for the kayak launch from the Jackson Healthcare Foundation in early Winter 2022; the grant funding needs to be used by the end of June 2022.
- Matt, Luke, Neal, and Phil visited on 4/11/2022 to identify a potential location in Albertus Fields; the location in mind has had Jackson County landscaping in the previous year; this is an ideal location since the ground isn't too steep; Neal and Phil believe they can work on constructing this project; they would need to get an excavator to help clean up the land, get pricing on the lumber from Boekett, and assemble the project-potentially even at the shop and bring out the launch in segments.
- Matt also reached out to SEH over the past couple weeks. They are the engineering firm that created the Memorial Park Plan, to gather feedback on recommendations; SEH shared they are familiar with the fluctuating river elevations and higher velocity's the Des Moines River can have from time to time; the images shared by SEH were similar to what Luke shared with the Park Board during the August/September 2021 meetings; SEH believes the examples they shared with us would more cost effective and feasible options; SEH did mention that depending on the location, they suspect some rip-rap or landscaping rock might be necessary as well as a sidewalk attachment to the trail—but these are just initial ideas since they would like more specific information from us.

- SEH did share that a few things will need to be considered for permitting in waterways and public use liability; Joel shared that he spoke with AI in the office and he thinks permits shouldn't be an issue, but a 404 and DNR permit are probably ones to be addressed; if SEH is asked to design the actual steps we would need one of our Architects for liability reasons, also rip-rap in a permitted waterway area will need to be looked at a little closer; both ways these types of projects are conducted, and sometimes completed by small non-profit organizations.

#### **Dog Park:**

- Phil shared updates regarding the dog park; going with an 8ft double drive gate, tension wire, 9-gauge fabric, all posts, and top rail will be 20 weight; posts to be driven unless we would want them cemented in; the total bid would be \$8,261; additional features will be added included benches, picnic tables, pet rule signage, dog waste receptacles, play structures, etc.
- Motion made by Luke, seconded by Lynne, to go forward with the bid from Boltjes Fencing of Fairmont. Motion carries.

#### **Skating Rink:**

- Luke gave an update that the Jackson Community Foundation grant is due on 4/15/2022; Matt submitted the grant in late March 2022; if awarded funding, we would purchase ice skating and roller hockey equipment.
- Phil put together the dimensions of the ice skate rink and skate park; 100ft by 200ft ice skating rink, skate park would be 60ft by 100ft; the area would be divided into three segments for ice hockey, free skate, and skate park (iced over during winter).
- The goal for 2022 would be to at least level the area for this year, and hope to get the concrete laid out (depending on the bids).
- Review links from previous meetings:
  - <https://ezicerinks.com/?rink=kiddie&style=1%2C1%2C1&features=>
  - <https://youtu.be/7F7vGYqvJY8>
  - <https://www.springfieldmn.org/recreation/pages/springfield-outdoor-rink>

#### **Jackson Community Garden Update:**

- Luke gave a brief update regarding the gardens for Zimmerli Park; Matt Arlandson from Sentence to Serve is going to be putting together the beds over the next couple weeks to have them ready for early May 2022; so far there are five individuals that have registered for a garden plot.

#### **Disc Golf Course:**

- The trails committee is looking at purchasing a trail kiosk for Nelson Creek trailhead; we checked with Bill Swan about a kiosk, and he doesn't have any concerns with it; the purpose of the kiosk would be to show signage with adequate space for an overall trail map with mileages, space for

use for the disc golf course signage, incorporating a course diagram, basic rules for playing disc golf, warning notification for flying objects hazards (as discussed in our past meetings), etc.

- There is a new Jackson County Disc Golf League on Facebook that is being used to promote the work taking place behind MnWest/Nelson Creek Trail.

**Phil/Neal Report:**

- Phil shared there are three park kids hired, still waiting on one more seasonal staff—will ask new hires if they have friends who would be interested in applying for jobs; starting to get spring/summer park equipment ready to go; taking out old playground material (i.e. spring toys, merry-go-round, etc.); residents are beginning to play basketball and tennis on the courts.

**Other:**

- Cay shared that Jackson will be featured in the Lake Life Okoboji (magazine) pertaining to the Jackson Art Murals and farmers market in their spring issue.
- Benes Recreation Area: Kim Benes called Dave Maschoff explaining that his mother is now in hospice; he believes it might be hard to sell the house, and asked if the city would be interested to purchase it; Mike Gruhkle will ask the DNR about purchasing the property.

**Adjournment:**

**Next Meeting:**

May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 530pm.