

Park Board Meeting Minutes
Jackson City Hall
6/13/2023
5:30 p.m.

Attendees:

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

Parks and Recreation Month:

- July 2023 is National Park and Recreation Month, we will get a photo for the newspaper, and request the city council reads the proclamation for their July 2023 meeting.
- <https://www.nrpa.org/events/july/>

Community Gardens:

- The community garden project has been a huge success; majority of the plots have been filled by residents; there are a few spots available if folks would like to double up their current garden plot.
- John is working on the online portal to register for gardens; this will be ready for the 2024 growing season, and will help lessen the burden of the office staff.
- There have been requests to have a small storage shed or outdoor tote box for folks to store their equipment at the garden.
- The community garden mission, vision, and values statement will be developed by the Green Thumbs Committee.
- Zimmerli Park might need a small play set for children while there parents are gardening., Neal is going to look into this.

Sandbox Updates:

- Last year, we posted on the City's Facebook page what residents would like to see in place of sandbox; there were various comments shared by residents, with several comments expressing desire to have better equipment similar to surrounding communities; at this time, we will focus on prioritizing sandbox maintenance instead of dissolving into a different project; we will explore installing an excavator at the sandboxes for kids to use.
- The sand in the volleyball court at Sunset Park will be upgraded—the current sand is poor quality and the area is uneven; the goal would be to make the volleyball court more enjoyable to play on barefoot and look at developing summer league in the near future.

Dog Park Updates:

- The dog park design will look like a trapezoid; the park will be designed to include the double doors for leashing and unleashing dogs; fencing will be 5ft high; the project will begin sometime in July 2023.
- Dog park water fountain- the waterline will be available to tap into, this will provide water for dog park; the design would look like a sauce in the bowl with concrete bottom so water can dry up when it is not being used.
- Dog park signage- Matt shared an example of dog park rules from his previous community; the rules are fairly simple to follow from using the park at your own risk to who to contact in case of an emergency or non-emergency; a dog park welcome sign was also provided at the meeting; see dog park rules handout for full set of rules
- **Motion made** by Lynne, seconded by Michael Eddy, to accept the same dog park rules as Springfield, MN, all in favor, motion carries.

Kayak Rentals:

- During the May 2023 meeting, the idea of having a business sell or rent kayaks and other rental equipment was proposed, this would be a long-term project to implement; we will explore setting up a meeting with Dave at the EDA about a business opportunity—what this could look like in Jackson.
- There are state water trail signs that were granted to the City; they are currently at the shop, and would be nice to get installed over the winter season; logistically, we'd need to see if the city, county, or state should be involved with the installation since the bridges are owned the city and county—more investigation will be done.

Memorial Park and Nelson Creek Trail Signage Updates:

- These signs will be placed up over the next week.

Memorial Park Planning Updates (where things are at with the plan):

- The veterans have been working on the design for the Veterans Plaza over the past two months; they were measuring the north-end of Memorial Park last week.
- There are four phases of Memorial Park to work on according to the 2018 plan; the original plan included different amenities to add to the park area; a few of the goals identified in each phase will likely need to be reworked because of newer priorities identified in the original plan—an example is creating a permanent warming house, moving the amphitheater to an area that won't interfere with sewer lines, and the playground area, there are other goals that will need to be moved around.

Community Park Assessments/Visits:

- It was agreed upon that we will visit the community parks throughout the rest of the year; our next meeting will be the Ashley Park Shelter house (July 2023).

Disc Golf Course Grand Opening:

- Neal shared the disc golf course has running very well; there have been positive feedback from folks who've said this has to be one of if not the nicest disc golf course they've been too.
- Bill confirmed the grand opening is set for the evening of 6/20/2023 (next week, Tuesday, after 5:30pm).
- Course progress-
 - Signs:
 - Final tee pad sign designs approved (club funded/provided)
 - Jeff Cruise will have the signs printed for us by next week (club funded)
 - Tee pad Signposts were installed last-night
 - Need warning signs and installation (city supplied material and labor preferred)
 - Navigation signs for hole-to-hole travel (club supplied)
 - Message Board:
 - Final course map design is being worked on now (club funded)
 - Rules for play sign saved for printing
 - Talked to Tony about adding a mailbox (city provided) to the side of the message board for scorecards
 - Jackson trails QR code
 - Course registry:
 - Register the course to PDGA, DGCR, U-disc, DG Scene, etc. to gain momentum in attracting players
 - Register league to MN disc-golf pages (League, Thursdays at 6pm, all skill levels and all people are welcome)
 - Open the course for tournament play once registered
- Bill will be out today mowing some and doing a final prep for grand opening. They have some trimming to do, but otherwise we are about to wrap this project up and get to the enjoyment part.

Hydration Stations:

- We'd still like to get a hydration station for Ashley Park; ideally, if we could get a hydration that would also serve as a dual purpose for dogs to drink from the bottom.
- During the early spring 2023 meeting, we motioned to acquire SHIP Grant funding to help offset the cost an outdoor hydration station.

Basketball/Tennis Court Maintenance:

- Matt will follow up with the maintenance crew this week to find out when they will be coming to Jackson to address the courts in Ashley, Central, and Dumont Parks.

Tony/Neal Report:

- Tony shared the earliest he could organize beer league softball would be autumn 2023, but mostly won't happen until summer 2024.
- Albertus Fields have been reviewed by Tony and Neal; the benches and shelter need a lot of work to the point where it might be best to remove them altogether; minor adjustments and improvements have been made by the park kids to at least make it useable for the remainder of this season.
- The small shelter house/picnic table roofs were updated in Ashley Park.
- Tony is seeking our feedback about Benes Park; he is proposing if we could turn it into a natural wetland; explore adding native grasses.
- There is a tree that will be removed on the south-end of Memorial Park's water dike, Neal and Tony will find a new location for the tree.

Next Meeting:

- 7/11/2023 at 530 pm at Jackson City Hall.

Adjourn:

- Meeting adjourn at 653pm.