

Park Board Meeting Minutes  
Jackson City Hall  
3/14/2023  
5:30 p.m.

**Attendees:**

- Attendees: Michael Haeffner, Michael Gilbert, Matt Skaret, Neal Carlson, Luke Ewald, Phil Markman, Mike Gruhlkle, Mike Eddy, Lynne Anderson (joined remotely).
- Absent: Neal Carlson
- Guests: John Weland, Phil Perro.

**Community Garden Update:**

- Phil and John visited with Dan Peterson at Boekett on 3/13/2023; the total cost of the project would be \$6,888.28; the garden expansion will include raised garden beds, potting benches, fencing, and a gate; the design is ADA-compliant; this proposal would make the gardens to 12 raised beds and 36 smaller gardens; Boekett is exploring to donate (cut the price) for this project; Phil and John measured the area for this proposed project.
- Luke shared Jackson County Sentence to Serve is willing to help put the garden beds together.
- Financial assistance will come through local public health Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP), also seek other grant opportunities through community funding.
- **Motion:** made by Luke, seconded by Michael Gilbert, to move forward with the Community Garden expansion, all in favor, motion carries; Lynne abstained from voting due joining remotely.

**Dog Park Update/Funding Opportunities:**

- Matt shared an update from the City Council, they would like to see the dog park be revisited; an eight-foot double drive gate, tension wire, nine-gauge fabric, all posts and a top rail will be 20 weight; posts would be driven unless you want them cemented in; the total bid installed would be \$8,561; this price was from 3/14/2023; the dog park area would be around 80ft x 300ft; this entire area would be for small and large dogs.
- The location would be ideal since it is off the Memorial Park Trail Connection, restrooms, and water access.
- We will need to explore dog park rules and signage, waste receptacle, guidelines for aggressive dogs, dogs not "fixed", vaccinated (i.e. kennel cough), etc.
- **Motion:** made by Luke, seconded by Mike Eddy, to move forward with the Dog Park proposal, all in favor, motion carries.

**Kayak Rental Update (Chamber Discussion):**

- Luke and Matt visited with Corey at the Chamber; the Chamber is willing to help promote the kayak launch and any rental system we come up with; there was concern brought up about liability and safety.

- Luke reached out to the City of Windom to learn how they allow residents/visitors to check out kayaks; the CVB created the project and funded the purchase of the Kayaks and that the Parks and Recreation department maintains and is control of the use of the kayaks; the City of Windom requires the Kayaks to stay at Cottonwood Lake and they are not to be used in any other waters other than the lake; users are required to complete an online waiver in order to access the kayak cage with a user code sent via email; for spring 2023, the city crew is planning to an install an EZ-dock kayak launch at Island Park to provide opportunities for Des Moines River access; they kayaks were purchased through a local vendor in Windom; if we have any questions we can connect with Jon or Tim 507-822-0783.
- **Explore:** continue to explore costs and logistics of this; check with other communities that have kayak launches.

#### **Fitness Studio Update/Memorial Park:**

- Luke reached out to NFC/BlueCross BlueShield to gather more information about the outdoor fitness studio; here is information from Gloria: see the attached 2022 NFC Impact Report which helps answers some of our questions from the February 2023 meeting pertaining to maintenance and other community testimonials; I'm also linking our Michigan statewide partner Priority Health update; the partnership has been hugely successful over the last two years and they have just extended the agreement another three years; they believe this helps address the weather issue. Let me know if you want to set up a call to touch base after you've had the opportunity to discuss with Matt and others at the city of Jackson. We are working on having all 2023 applications submitted by the end of March/early April 2023 to allow a timeline for success as we navigate all the pieces that need to fall into place for the successful launch of the Campaign in the community; of course, we can also work on the 2024 grant timeline, and we do have the 2024 applications available as well.
- Windom Area Health Be Well Path: their path equipment was installed in 2018 and to their knowledge there has been no maintenance needed thus far; the rubber bumpers on some of the equipment have now cracked slightly so they plan reaching out to the company they ordered from to see if there were replacements or what to do about that cracks; equipment is used by patients who go through rehabilitation, youth for their wellness activities, and employees looking to get outside on break; they do not plow the trail in the winter.
- Questions about maintenance and winter storage, how often would this equipment be used during the warm season; it would be ideal to check with other communities that have this equipment before pursuing this grant opportunity; there is a community match that would be required (estimated \$25,000).
- Locations could include Memorial Park, or possibly near MnWest College.
- **No Motion** was made moving forward with this proposed project.

#### **Climbing Walls:**

- Matt shared there are two more parks we still need to work on—Patterson and Sunset Parks; Patterson Park would cost \$42,953.16; there are a few options we can look at including a Ten Spin, S Ladder, Serpent Trek, or Tarantula Climber; the cost for Sunset Park is \$28,273.46.
- All the elements are intended for use by children 5-12, same as the Ten Spin; the tapered tower and boulder bridge rock wall will be a bit more expensive (\$9-10K range), but closer to the styles we had shared in your last email.
  - S climber - 4' deck height
  - Serpent - 5' deck height
  - Tarantula climber - checking on deck height.
  - [Tapered Tower | Miracle Recreation \(miracle-recreation.com\)](#)
  - [Boulder Ridge Rock Wall, Inground | Miracle Recreation \(miracle-recreation.com\)](#)
- **No Motion** was made, we will revisit this at the April meeting.

#### **Albertus Fields:**

- Luke shared he would like to see Albertus Fields get a little cleaned up—painting, fixing up any damaged dugout materials, minor updates, etc.
- Matt shared the lighting was turned on (last year) to allow folks to use during the evening hours; Phil proposed that we look at putting together a lighting and sensors for this to allow for seasonal usage.

#### **Phil/Neal Report:**

- The skating rink is completely gone now due to the rain.
- For seasonal employment, there is one past employee interested to comeback and one new employee; the goal is to get a couple of Street Department and four Park Department seasonal staff (for each department).
- Neal shared at the last meeting he would like to get another mower to help with expanded mowing (i.e. the disc golf area); Phil and Neal are still waiting on a cost estimate.

#### **Next Meeting:**

- 4/11/2023 at 530 pm at city hall.

#### **Adjourn:**

- Meeting adjourn at 634pm.