

**Jackson Park Board Meeting
Jackson City Hall**

2/8/2022

Attendees:

- Attendees: Matt Skaret, Neal Carlson, Luke Ewald, Jen Eicholz, Michael Gruhkle, Phil Markman, Michael Haeffner, Michael Gilbert.
- Absent: Lynne Anderson, Chris Vee
- Guests: N/A

Jackson Community Garden Update:

- Luke shared updates regarding the Jackson gardens located at Zimmerli Park; the gardeners have ordered several seeds/plants for the 2022 growing season, also planning to order 100lbs of cocoa core and perlite mix to help soften the top soil; there is interest to expand the gardens by adding 2-3 more in Zimmerli Park or other locations in Jackson; one of the current garden beds at Zimmerli Park might need to be fixed as the result of wood coming undone; there is interest to seek funding for a FarmBot that would help with gardening (this could be some that we could write a grant for); Eye Kandy should be wrapping up with completing the Community Garden sign for Zimmerli Park; other garden options: [ADA-Compliant Elevated Beds](#)
- Jackson Library is looking at hosting gardening classes spring 2022; potential opportunities to raise awareness about community gardens.
- **Action Items:** Luke will check with Boekett and Lakefield Lumber to get quotes on garden beds; consider checking with Tri-State for any lumber they may no longer need; continue to utilize plastic fencing as we currently have.

FRE Grant- FarmBot:

- Recap from the July 2021 Park Board meeting regarding the FarmBot: FarmBot is a robotic open hardware system that assists anyone with a small plot of land and a desire to grow food with planting, watering, soil testing, and weeding. It uses components, including weather-resistant materials to help garden.
- The gardeners created a breakdown of a small and a large FarmBot setup as well as very conservative predictions of the yield based on planting a single type of vegetable in that FarmBot bed: FarmBot Genesis XL: \$12,100 vs. FarmBot Express: \$5,000.
- Predicted yield: predictions are based on monoculture bed, using the square footage of the starter setup; growing season with hoop house over greenhouse from March to November.
- There is no interest in pursuing the FarmBot by the Park Board.

Skating Rink

- Jackson's current skating rink is measured as 170ft x 100ft.

- Matt shared an update regarding the Springfield Skating Rink; he reached out to his successor in Springfield since they recently opened up a new outdoor rink; the system Springfield uses is through EZ Ice works for a grass, gravel, or concrete base; this might be something we want to explore further; during the January Park Board meeting, we discussed putting in a concrete base that could be used for roller hockey in the summertime last night; the City plans to re-pave the downtown alleys with concrete this summer; this would be the time to add on the concrete for the skating rink to get better economies of scale; we should also consider getting local skaters involved with the project to help with logistics.
 - <https://ezicerinks.com/?rink=kiddie&style=1%2C1%2C1&features=>
 - <https://youtu.be/7F7vGYqvJY8>
 - <https://www.springfieldmn.org/recreation/pages/springfield-outdoor-rink>
- Matt will get information to Greg at Bolton Menk to get quotes on adding a concrete pad.

Disc Golf Course Updates:

- Bill has established and mowed all fairways as well as about 80% of tree trimming and removal; the plan for Spring will be finalizing the fairways and final allocation of tee pads and basket locations; following we can install baskets and wait for the city to make and install the tee pads; the final steps in our process will address the water crossings, signage, and safety prior to trial rounds and play.
- **Action Item:** get what size tee pads Bill would like.

Phil/Neal's Report

- The forecast doesn't look well for a few days for the skating rink, followed by freezing, and another warm up.

Other Updates:

- Veteran's Plaza: Dave Hargen is wintering in Alabama; there are three veterans who are interested to help get this project going.
- Dog Park: location has been discussed; would like to find a home at southside of Albertus Field; there has been some concern with the dog park in the Albertus Field area from local residents.
- Safety First Update: Matt will have an updated quote from Safety First for Dumont Park during the March 2022 meeting.
- Ashley Park Small Shelter Roof: through observations, the roof needs to be replaced.

Adjournment:

Next Meeting:

March 8th, 2022 at 530pm.