

Park Board Meeting Minutes
Jackson City Hall
9/13/2022

Attendees:

- Attendees: Michael Haeffner, Matt Skaret, Mike Eddy, Luke Ewald, Lynne Anderson, Jerry Palmer, Phil Markman, Neal Carlson, Michael Gilbert
- Absent: Mike Gruhlke,
- Guests: Bob Grunewald.

Benes Park Update:

- Resident Bob Grunewald—lives at 59 River Street, Jackson, MN.
- Bob shared concerns regarding Benes Recreation Area:
 - The city requires a six-inch grass height (max length), and Benes Park has tall weeds and grasses that are at least three feet or taller;
 - There are Cottonwood Trees 10-12 feet tall (that have never been there before); there have been reports of dumping happening on and off;
 - Bob and his wife called the city a few weeks ago (originally six weeks ago, then follow up phone calls);
 - Also concerns with Svoboda Excavating is blocking part of the road with their equipment (the DNR requires the area being blocked off to remain open);
 - The County Ditch Mower came through over the past week to help do some cleaning.
- Phil shared they are in the process of getting this area taken care of; there have been folks who have expressed interest in this area for haying, but have never showed up. Phil said they will need to rent equipment and that they are planning on getting the area cleaned up this fall

Hockey Gear Open House:

- Luke shared that we should explore having an open house for the new hockey gear we acquired from the Community Foundation grant; Lynne suggested we could have this part of the October 2022 Trunk O' Treat in downtown Jackson; we will connect with Jacqueline to see if this something we could incorporate into downtown activities.

EZ Rink Hockey Boards:

- Matt shared that winter is coming; the goal would be to get hockey boards planted soon; the problem we ran into for this year is the cementing will not be completed until Spring 2023; there is an opportunity to explore called EZ ICE PRO Home Arena System; this equipment can be placed on any flat surface, no tools (everything clips into place), and quick to assemble (less than 5 minutes); Example of estimated pricing: for a 40x by 80x would be \$15,380; other communities, including Springfield, have installed this system, which has been well received.

- Snow removal was also discussed; Matt will check with Springfield to see how they handle snow removal.
- Funding opportunities were discussed; we can look at Jackson Healthcare Foundation grant.
- Motion made by Lynne, seconded by Luke, to research 40ft by 80ft EZ ICE Home Pro area, all in favor, motion carries.

Safety First Program Update:

- Ashley, Dumont, Central Park, and Zimmerli have been completed so far; Patterson and Sunset Park are only parks left to be updated.
- Matt is waiting to hear back from Marissa for updated quotes, but it is estimated that Patterson Park will be more expensive compared to Sunset Park; ideally, we could do both projects to save money in the long-run.
- We currently have around \$90,000 in our Capital Improvement fund.
- Action item: Matt will wait to hear back from Marissa on getting updated quotes.

Dann's Island Light Update:

- Matt shared the lighting is up; The Electric Department installed this last month, the city had the pole on hand.

Disc Golf Course Update:

- Matt shared the course is being used; the baskets are in, the T-boxes are set (not fully installed yet); there are a few areas where the course will need to have adjustments—the city cannot accommodate all the requests Bill Swan is asking for.
- There was a firestorm on social media (Facebook) about safety concerns; signage will be placed to warn individuals about the disc golf course.
- EyeKandy Studios completed the Nelson Creek Disk Golf Course and Trail signage, and the Memorial Park sign; the size of the signs will be 24x48 inches; the total bid came to \$1,100.
- Motion made by Mike G, seconded by Luke, to move forward with the EyeKandy Studio bid, all in favor, motion carries.

FRE Grant Dog Waste Receptacles:

- Phil and Neal agreed to go with plastic dog waste receptacles; these will last longer compared to metal.
- Luke shared this grant is due on 9/23/2022.
- Motion made by Lynne, seconded by Luke, to move forward with apply for the FRE grant for plastic dog waste receptacles.

Sandboxes:

- Luke discussed that several of the sandboxes in the city parks have mud wasps; there was discussion looking at what else could be done to repurpose the sandboxes—examples discussed were community garden plots, adding flowers, adding toys/playground equipment.
- Matt will post a social media clip on Facebook to engage residents for additional ideas.

Boat Launch near new Kayak Launch:

- Matt is still waiting to hear back from Phil Nasby regarding a possible Boat Launch for Memorial Park.

Mammoth Sports Letter of Intent:

- In June 2022, there was concern discussed brought up about Albertus Fields; Matt reviewed old council meeting minutes to learn more about the history of the fields and gifting to the city; the goal was to make it “The Field of Dreams” for Jackson; the fields are underutilized, and decisions need to be made on how it can be repurposed; the Finance Committee would really like to see the Albertus Field area improved.
- Matt reached out to Mammoth Sport; they visited Albertus Fields last month to get a sense for what it would take to create a new complex; Mammoth Sport would do the entire project—they would coordinate the project, sub-out any work they cannot complete.
- Local Option Sale Tax (\$375,000 per year or 1%) or other grant funding sources; estimated cost to repurpose the area is two million dollars.
- No action taken by Park Board.

Phil/Neal Report:

- The park kids are done for the season.
- The Splash Pad is having issues with waterflow—50 to 60 gallons of water are being cycled per hour when it is not in use; the Splash Pad season will likely be done by next week, the weather is getting cooler.

Other:

- **Trees**— the trail committee has two trees to donate; one location would be right by the old Bayou where the old tree fell down; the second tree could go in Dann’s Island.

Adjournment:

- Motion made by Luke, seconded by Lynne, to adjourn meeting, all in favor, motion carries.

Next Meeting:

October 13th, 2022 at 530pm.

