

Park Board Minutes

June 11, 2019 at City Hall

Present: Michael Haeffner, Luke Ewald, Mike Gruhlke, Phil Markman, Larry Anderson, Mike Gilbert, Matt Skaret, Lynne Anderson, Jennifer Eicholz.

Absent: No one.

A. Ashley Shelter House: A concern was brought up about a Pilot article with the heading, “the Park Board dropped the ball on the Shelter House.” The committee members did not know that Boekett offered design services. They have had difficulties finding a contractor to return calls or attend a meeting. ACTION: Board consensus was that if the City Council does not approve of a recommendation from the Park Board, please send it back to the Park Board with reasons listed and we will continue the effort. Thanks to Councilman Donnie for contacting Dustin at Boekett and getting their services for \$500. Councilman Dave will attend our July meeting with more information and get the project back into our hands.

B. Memorial Park Update: Because of the weather, Phase 1 has not started. However, the Boy Scout building is empty and ready to be moved. The Street Department has cleared everything else. Phil and Matt will be notified when the crew officially gets started. Mike Gruhlke continues to be in contact with Jeff Johnson and the Veterans group that is working on the design for the Veteran’s Plaza, but they do not have a plan as yet. They do have the designs that SEH provided.

C. Ashley/Central Park Tennis Courts Resurfacing Update: Phil has talked to the contractor and he must move fence at Central Park for their equipment; but at Ashley, they should not have a problem. Because of the weather, there is no timeline when they will get to our project.

D. Splash Pad Update: Because of flooding issue the Splash Pad will not be at Memorial Park. There is a Letter of Intent where the City will own/operate for a 10 year period, but it will be on School property. At June 11th meeting three locations discussed:

1. Right outside the pool—best for aquatic-theme facility and access to pool. Big drawback is underground utilities and cost to move them and tear up street.
2. Across street next to FFA gardens—still close to pool, no utility issues, restrooms close, no lost parking. However, fill needed for drainage, children crossing street, ball diamond very close.
3. East of north softball field—best for utilities, restrooms are close, trees for shade, some parking. Needed would be ADA to restroom, oil or crushed asphalt for gravel road dust, sidewalk.

A decision will be made soon by Committee, City, and School because the committee needs to use some grant funds by end of June or lose them. They have consented to try to raise another \$50,000. The EDA has suggested a possible amount of \$22,000 for infrastructure. The committee has agreed to finish the remodel of the Albertus Fields restroom that was started last Fall.

D. Disc Golf—There has been no reply from Chelsea or the 10 engineers at AgCo who are interested in moving the Course. Consensus of board members is that Benes Park is not a suitable area with the flooding. ACTION: Luke will again reach out to Chelsea and try to have someone at our next meeting.

E. Phil's Report—

1. Summer work kids are doing a good job so far
2. Location for new park signs for Ashely, Sunset, and Dumont was scouted out today
3. Nothing from Safety First Playground Company on the inspection of parks that occurred on May 15th. Phil told us to be ready for “sticker shock” as merry-go-rounds, spring toys, metal slides, pea-rock falling surfaces/border containment are all out of compliance.
4. Polz has sprayed large areas for weeds and Phil will handle the smaller parks. Mosquito spraying will happen before Franks A Lot and Tri4Health.
5. They ordered a new backboard for the basketball court.

Next meeting will be July 9th at 5:30 at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Lynne Anderson.