

**Jackson Park Board Meeting
Jackson City Hall**

11/9/2021

Attendees:

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

Phil Nasby (Canoe/Kayak Launch):

- The Des Moines River Trail is a state water trail that has a good usage; a regional water route would be around 11 miles to Jackson from Petersburg, 11 miles to Kilen Woods, 10 miles to Christian Bridge, 7 miles to Windom; The DNR would supply plank for a kayak launch (there is no cost to the city for purchasing these planks); as for the DNR putting planks in, Phil is unsure if the DNR is willing to put the planks in for the City of Jackson; in Estherville, they want to take the dam out to make the kayak route easier to navigate; most kayakers like a half day or full day route; there are some items to take into account including elevated water depth; we cannot put docks in due to the varying water levels; a launch site should be angled downriver; there are “rapids ahead” signage that needs to be installed; Phil has already taken orders for planks for kayak launches in other communities; floating docks are more competitive to get due to funding shortages (a community needs to demonstrate the need and typically will put funding into the project)—once the planks are done, we could explore the floating dock as a project; explore having a meeting with the Estherville, IA kayak group.

Healthcare Foundation Grant

- The healthcare foundation grant is ready to go, all we need to determine is the cost for the material; planks and rapid warning signs will be deemed as an in-kind donation; we would need to look at a kayak launch for this grant since the planks would be provided for free; for grant, add launch site at bayou area.

Dog Park Update

- Luke Ewald noted that he has been in communication with the Jackson County Animal Protection Society (JCAPS) and it is unclear if they are interested in helping with the project or not. Their preferred location for the dog park is up on the last west of MNWEST near where the disc golf course is going. However, South Albertus Field is the preferred location for the dog park of the Park Board due to existing fencing, parking availability, and water infrastructure; we would want to check with the youth MYFL to ensure we are not encroaching their area during activities; estimated fencing would be around \$25,000; we would want to talk to Bill Boltjes in

Fairmont, MN to get an estimated cost for chain links. The Board discussed potential grant opportunities to help with funding.

Skating Rink & Ice Rink Attendants

- There has been ice skate rink work to help retain water better; a motion was made by Chris, seconded by Luke, to advertise for the hire of three ice skate rink attendants; advertising for these positions will begin the week of Thanksgiving and the week after Thanksgiving.

Phil/Neal Report

- Stump grinding is currently being completed; the picnic table situation is being looked into—there are a couple that are getting worn out; there are several; picnic tables being ordered to replace the old tables; the garbage cans arrived for the splash pad that will be installed this coming spring; there are a few garbage cans that need to be replaced from old age in community parks.

Other:

- Matt asked if we want to increase the fee for the Ashley Park Shelter House; a suggestion was made to increase the fees for Ashley Park to \$50; a motion was made by Lynne, seconded by Mike Gruhkle to increase the Ashley Park Shelter House fee to \$50.

Adjournment:

Next Meeting:

December 14th, 2021 at 530pm.